

Namibia process reaffirmed

AKA (R) — The United Nations' senior official in Namibia said today the territory's transition to independence from South Africa was ahead despite difficulties and elections would be held Nov. 6. "The process of implementation... is going ahead," Martti Ahtisaari said. "I am saying there are no difficulties, but there are bound to be difficulties," he said. U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar's special representative in Namibia, speaking to reporters in London after attending Angolan President Jose Eduardo dos Santos' U.N. official, so comments were broadcast by Angolan national radio and monitored by Reuters in Lusaka, had attended a two-day meeting of senior South African, Angolan and Cuban officials reviewing peace accords that signed December. U.S. and Soviet observers also took part in the meeting. The talks resulted in the start of a U.N.-backed independence plan for Namibia April 1. Ahtisaari said elections for a Namibian constituent assembly had been set for Nov. 6. Elections were originally due on Nov. 1 but were put back due to delays in the independence process, which was not by violence when it began in April.

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h expatriate conference opens in Amman

Jordan transcended conspiracies — Regent

By Rania Attalla
A Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordan's political and economic achievements were achieved in spite of conspiracies, the kingdom, and what is to be done is sorting out priorities and consolidating economic and social reforms, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan said today. "The country's stability, growth and the ability to adapt to one's conditions have been achieved through institutions that are run by competent people capable of doing their jobs," Crown Prince Hassan said. "The Jordanian expatriate conference which opened here today, 'Excellence alone, in the face of solid and firm foundations, is not sufficient,' he said (that personal heroism, a superhero, would not do it).

tion) does not win its proponent any popularity, it does ensure him respect and renders him strong once he has been settled and once the process of solution finding has started," the Crown Prince added. Jordan's current economic condition has been explained by some as an accumulation of mistakes committed by both the private and public sectors, while others interpret the economic situation as a result of the country's development approach, Prince Hassan said. Others still attribute it to the country's indebtedness which has exceeded the green bracket, he said. "In all honesty... some of us may have exaggerated in our spending and consumption (patterns)... and some may have initiated productive projects which did not operate at their maximum capacity," Prince Hassan said. "All these matters took place as they do in any developing or developed country... but still they do not sufficiently explain (Jordan's economic crisis)," he added. The Crown Prince pointed to several factors which he said were directly related to institution and societal building. Foremost among those was the necessity to make sound choices in sorting out priorities. The second factor cited by Prince Hassan was the principle of "sound and responsible management" which, he said, was

the secret to institutional success, any popularity, it does ensure him respect and renders him strong once he has been settled and once the process of solution finding has started," the Crown Prince added. "No single administration is immune to accountability and questioning by the very society which has built it, financed it and upon which it pinned its hopes," Prince Hassan said. "In this matter, everyone must be equal and we must not dump the responsibility on those who are weak and hold them accountable while keeping others above accountability and checking," he added. What is needed, he noted, is an administration capable of securing maximum returns while maintaining minimum costs — an administration that is capable of transforming the Kingdom's economy from one that is quantity-based to one which focuses on quality. As the world approaches the threshold of the 21st century, the Crown Prince said, the future holds no place for small entities. "Jordan does not look at itself as an isolated island," he said. "Joint Arab economic work, which in the past had faced obstacles, should work out a sound formula for the future," he added pointing to Jordan's pioneer efforts in establishing the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC).

(Continued on page 3)

raelis go on rampage

PIED JERUSALEM (ies) — At least 300 shouting "Death to the stone-throwing Palestinians cars on Jerusalem street Saturday afternoon for the killing of 14 an Arab who forced a bus cliff. Several police fired several times at the Jews hurling stones at cars, police and journalists in Bar Ilan street. Israelis marched down the marching for Palestinians, the witnesses said. At least one Palestinian was beaten.

The CNN soundman was hit by five stones and Jews tried to smash his tape machine. "They attacked our car and they attacked us with their fists," Scherzer said. Unknown assailants fatally shot two Arabs suspected of collaborating with the Israeli authorities and a third Arab man was shot and killed Saturday by soldiers, Arah and Israeli reports said. "The deaths raised to 549 the number of Palestinians killed in the 18-month-old uprising. Fifteen other Palestinians were reported wounded or injured in clashes with soldiers that erupted Friday night and Saturday in at least six towns and refugee camps in the occupied territories," reports said. On Friday night a 27-year-old Palestinian man was seriously injured by a rock hurled at his car in Jerusalem's Talpout quarter, Arab reports said.

In the occupied Gaza Strip, Israeli soldiers reportedly blocked a group of settlers from entering the area where the Arab suspected of causing Thursday's bus crash lives. At least three Arab motorists were injured in Jewish stoning attacks in Jerusalem and Gaza Friday. Also Saturday, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir said his cabinet would consider new measures to confront the uprising. One possibility, Shamir said on Israeli radio, was imposing a death penalty. "I think we have to discuss it... we will discuss it in the very near future," Shamir said. Shamir gave no details about other restrictions being considered. The United States Friday called the Israeli bus incident senseless and tragic and urged those interested in peace to make similar statements.

S. struggles to keep Mideast policy on course despite setback

AT (Agencies) — The United States is struggling to keep its East peace plans alive in the face of a setback in the Middle East. Yitzhak Shamir's hardline, a senior U.S. State Department official said in Oman today. "If the peace process was stalemated by the stand, Washington could lose away from backing, and elections and lobby international conference. The Arab-Israeli conflict will continue to see if we progress with this (elections). I don't see it as a line, I don't see it as a lot of progress, I see it as a lot of progress," said the familiar with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's visit in Oman for talks and after visits to Japan and Bush administration has a lot of energy in backing Shamir's proposal for elections, choose negotiators for talks with Israel on Palestinian conditions set by Likud.

hardliners and endorsed on Wednesday by Shamir could be a "deal-breaker," according to the U.S. official, speaking to reporters on condition of anonymity. Shamir told the Likud central committee that Israel would never negotiate with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), allow a Palestinian state (or end Jewish settlements in the occupied territories). He also declared that Jerusalem was not part of the initiative and would remain the "undivided capital" of Israel. These were all longstanding Likud conditions. But State Department Middle East experts said that by articulating the positions so forcefully, Shamir's party dealt a blow to peace prospects and undermined U.S. policy. "It would have been better in terms of trying to get the parties together if (Shamir and Likud) had not articulated them (the conditions)," the official said. But he added that Washington would persevere with its support for Palestinian elections for at least the time being. "It is better to continue to try and work with this. If we get stalemated and we can't make any progress then maybe we have to say 'OK, we tried the elections proposal and it didn't work and we'll look for other forms'," he said.

Many countries, including the Soviet Union, advocate an international peace conference on the Middle East. Washington has been arguing that such a gathering would be premature. But the Israeli developments apparently pushed Washington closer to accepting a conference as the best peace vehicle. "In our calculus all along has been the view that if things totally bog down, if you can't make progress with the elections proposal, then you would have to look at an international conference," the official said. "There's an awful lot of support for that out there from other countries." Baker was to leave Oman Sunday to fly to Warsaw and join President George Bush for a tour of Poland and Hungary. At a news conference Friday in Brussels, Baker characterized as "not helpful" the restrictions agreed to by the Likud bloc concerning terms for the proposed elections in the occupied West Bank and the Gaza Strip. Reporters travelling with Baker were told that the Likud position was akin to the announced previously Palestinian stance that elections are not feasible so long as the Israeli occupation continues.

(Continued on page 2)

Jordan Times

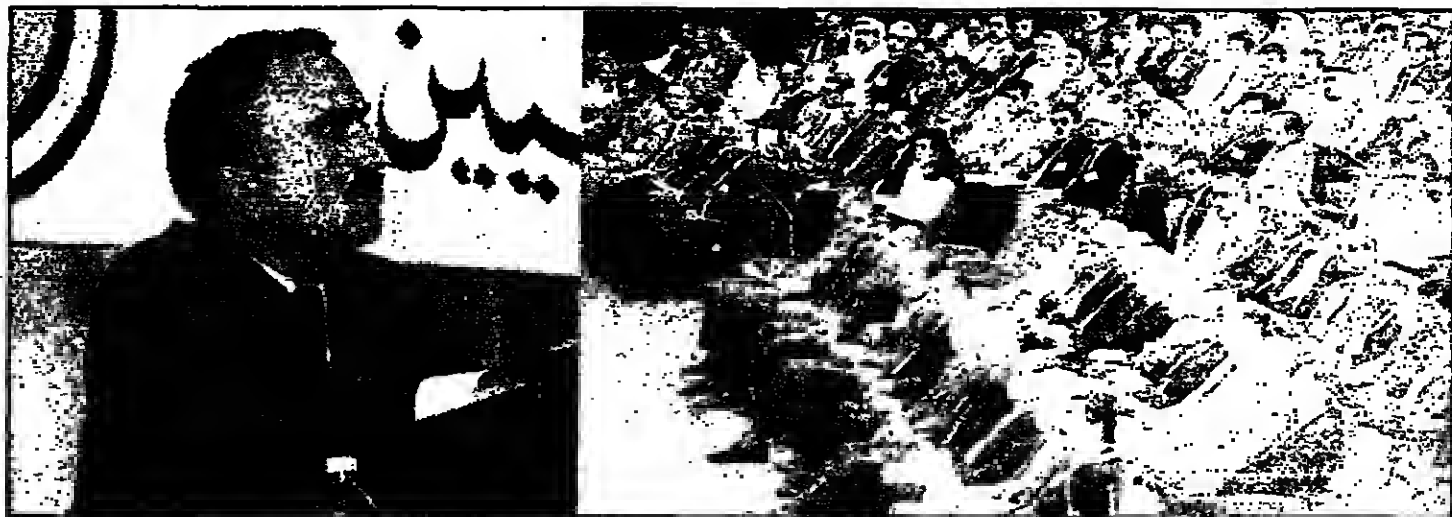
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His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Saturday opens the fifth Jordanian expatriate conference (photos by Yusef Al-Ahmad)

Regent visits army units

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Saturday paid a field visit to several units of the Armed Forces. The Regent, after being briefed on training programmes and operations, also watched exercises performed by the units. In a speech welcoming Arab and foreign delegations which watched the exercises, the Regent paid tribute to the Armed Forces' role in preserving security and stability.

Sharif Zaid in Abu Dhabi

ABU DHABI (Petra) — Prime Minister Sharif Zaid bin Shakir arrived in Abu Dhabi Saturday evening on a working visit to the United Arab Emirates (UAE) where he will deliver a message from His Majesty King Hussein to UAE President Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahayan. Upon arrival, the prime minister was received by UAE Deputy Prime Minister Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed Al Nahayan, Sheikh Hamdan bin Zayed Al Nahayan, a number of ministers, senior civilian and military officials, and the Jordanian ambassador to UAE. The prime minister is accompanied on the visit by Central Bank of Jordan Governor Mohammad Saeed Al Nabulsi.

Ibrahimi: Peace Lebanese responsibility

BEIRUT (Agencies) — An Arab League envoy negotiating for peace in Lebanon said Saturday that only the Lebanese could provide a settlement to the country's 14-year war. "The recipe has to be Lebanese. We can only supervise a solution, not make it," said Lakhdar Ibrahimi after holding talks with army commander Major-General Michel Aoun. It was his second meeting with Aoun, who heads a military cabinet and has launched a "war of liberation" against the estimated 40,000 Syrian troops in Lebanon. Ibrahimi told reporters at Aoun's shell-pocked presidential palace in east Beirut that his talks with Lebanese leaders since Thursday had been "good and positive." He later crossed the green line battle front to west Beirut and met acting Prime Minister Salim Hoss, leader of a civilian administration vying for power with

Aoun's cabinet. He was also due to meet Parliament Speaker Hussein Husseini. In Algeria, Arab foreign ministers charged with solving the Lebanese crisis planned their next move Saturday ahead of talks between the leaders of Saudi Arabia and Algeria. The ministers of Saudi Arabia, Algeria and Morocco discussed developments in Lebanon and Saudi Arabia's King Fahd was due to stop briefly in Algiers for talks with President Chadli Bejedid Saturday on his way home from Morocco, which he has been visiting since a May Arab summit in Casablanca, officials said. The summit gave the three countries six months to consolidate a fragile May 11 ceasefire in Lebanon and convene the Lebanese parliament to elect a new president and approve political reforms. The three ministers will discuss in Syria the lifting of a Syrian sea blockade of Aoun-held ports in

Lebanon since mid-March and ways to consolidate a ceasefire, the officials said. Ibrahimi, representing the committee, said the lifting of a land siege of the Aoun enclave was a positive move. "Some say the step was too late and insufficient. This is true, but it was still a positive development and contacts should be made for a radical solution of the security problem," Ibrahimi said. Several shells hit the approaches to Aoun-held ports Saturday. Three people were killed and five wounded in a bombardment Friday. Syria and its Lebanese allies imposed land and sea blockade on the Aoun enclave in mid-March. Three land routes were opened Tuesday but Syria tightened the naval siege by sending battleships and patrol boats to search ships for weapons. Aoun's cabinet said Friday Syria was trying to divert Ibrahimi

from pushing for a Syrian military withdrawal and an end to blockade. It was apparently referring to Syria's demand that Aoun give up Soviet-made surface-to-surface Frog-7 missiles, reported to have been provided by Iraq. Such missiles could reach Damascus from the eastern edge of the Aoun enclave. Amal leader Nabih Berna told a news conference in Damascus on Friday he had asked Syria to supply his militia with Frog-7 missiles to maintain military parity with Aoun's forces. There was no word on Syria's response. Ibrahimi said he would brief the Arab League committee after holding two more days of talks with Lebanese leaders. Moroccan Foreign Minister Abdul Latif Filali, arriving in Algiers for the committee meeting, told Reuters that Ibrahimi's contacts in Beirut appeared encouraging.

Warsaw Pact signs accord urging nuclear-free Europe

BUCHAREST (Agencies) — The Soviet Union and its Warsaw Pact allies signed an agreement Saturday to seek a nuclear-free Europe with significantly fewer soldiers and arms, the Soviet news agency TASS reported. The document approved by Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev and other East bloc leaders calls for creating "a stable and secure Europe, free from nuclear and chemical weapons, for substantial cuts in armed forces, arms and military spending," TASS reported. Gorbachev signed the red-covered text of the 16-page accord with a bold flourish and a smile for photographers, who were allowed to attend a brief signing ceremony. It took place in a glittering marble-columned ball in Bucharest's former royal palace. In remarks Friday at a palace dinner for the East bloc's top Communist Party and government officials, Gorbachev said the documents adopted by the Warsaw Pact in the two-day annual summit meeting contain a "serious palpable answer to the

proposals made by the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) countries." U.S. President George Bush May 29 called for cuts in U.S. and Soviet troops to 275,000 soldiers on each side stationed in Europe, outside the Soviet Union, and for reductions in weapons and combat aircraft. "We took new steps today towards European security and rapprochement and East-West dialogue," Gorbachev said. East German leader Erich Honecker flew home early Saturday morning suffering from an illness that was serious enough for him to miss the signing ceremony, officials said. Gorbachev was the first of the seven pact party chiefs to sign at the ceremony. He flashed a broad grin at photographers as he put down his pen. In his dinner speech Friday night, Gorbachev said the summit had taken important decisions which could bring the sides closer at East-West talks which opened in Vienna four months ago. Gorbachev pressed his bickering allies during the meeting to

put aside their differences and focus on a unified foreign policy and joint approach to arms control negotiations with NATO. "We hope that this serious and businesslike reaction to the proposals of the NATO countries will allow the delegations of both sides at the talks to move more quickly from words to deeds," Gorbachev said. The Soviet leader said the pact's "important resolution" will help narrow the gap between NATO and the East bloc and bring success at the Vienna negotiations. Gorbachev's host, Romanian President Nicolae Ceausescu, told the dinner the Warsaw Pact declaration expresses the East bloc's firm determination "for the conventional arms reductions talks in Vienna to end with best possible results and in the shortest possible time." He renewed what he termed the Soviet bloc's "appeal to NATO to give up its policy of nuclear deterrence" and expressed hope that new steps by the East bloc would draw a favourable NATO response.

Mandela pays 'informal courtesy' visit to Botha

JOHANNESBURG (Agencies) — Jailed black nationalist leader Nelson Mandela paid an informal courtesy visit to the Cape Town offices of South African President P.W. Botha, Justice Minister Kobie Coetsee said Saturday. No policy matters were debated and there were no negotiations between the African National Congress (ANC) leader and the outgoing president during the 45-minute meeting Wednesday, Coetsee said, according to the South African Press Association. The two men "availed themselves of the opportunity to confirm their support for peaceful development in southern Africa," the domestic agency quoted Coetsee as saying. He said the 45-minute conversation took place in a "pleasant spirit" by the possibility of "further steps or meetings was not discussed during the occasion." Coetsee said he was present during the visit. The visit to Botha's townhouse office is the latest signal that the government may be preparing to release Mandela, 26 years into a life sentence for plotting to overthrow white minority rule. Botha has said that he would like to free Mandela, who will shortly turn 74, in return for a pledge that he will renounce political violence. Mandela has refused to do so, saying that prisoners cannot enter into contracts. Mandela was moved from Pollsmoor prison to a house in the grounds of the Victor Verster prison on the outskirts of Paarl, near Cape Town, last year after recovering from tuberculosis. Analysts said at the time the prison move was part of a gradual process towards freeing him. But a friend who visits Mandela regularly said earlier this month that the ANC leader did not expect to be freed this year. Most analysts say a release is unlikely until after general elections in September, when Botha's term expires. He is expected to be succeeded by National Party chief F.W. de Klerk. De Klerk beat Botha in a succession struggle earlier this year.

Mahdi faces trial, possible execution

KHARTOUM (R) — Toppled Sudanese Prime Minister Sadeq Al Mahdi faces trial for alleged corruption and possible execution after his capture by Sudan's new military rulers. Mahdi, who came to power in 1986 after Sudan's first free elections in nearly 20 years, was seized in Khartoum Thursday after being on the run since his overthrow June 30. Sudan's new strongman, General Omar Hassan Al Bashir told the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) and Voice of America (VOA) on Saturday that Mahdi would be tried for alleged corruption and economic sabotage and could face the death penalty. The ousted prime minister is being held with at least 50 politicians associated with his rule. Bashir has said Mahdi and the others would be questioned and if charged would receive fair trials and the right to defence lawyers and an appeal. He has accused Mahdi's

coalition government of involvement in, or at least turning a blind eye to, widespread corruption and neglecting the armed forces as a prelude to replacing them by a militia. Bashir has also charged that the 53-year-old former prime minister followed policies which led to Sudan being isolated internationally and fuelled tribal rivalries in western Sudan. Mahdi, great-grandson of the 19th century Imam Al Mahdi, is not alone in being threatened with death by the military junta. Bashir has vowed to strike without mercy against black marketeers, hoarders, smugglers and illegal currency dealers on grounds that their dealings led to Sudan's deep economic problems. "The man is simply obsessed with the fight against the black market," said a senior Western diplomat after meeting Bashir. State television has broadcast extensive film of police and

army raids on warehouses where hundreds of tonnes of food and other supplies were said to be stored by hoarders. The official media said one warehouse was owned by Idris Al Banna, a member of Mahdi's Umma Party and Sudan's ousted five-man joint presidency. The council and parties were abolished by Bashir. Since the coup, state Radio Omdurman has broadcast interviews with hundreds of Sudanese urging Bashir's 15-man Revolutionary Council to get tough with greedy merchants. The official Sudan News Agency (SUNA) said an official delegation led by Bashir's deputy, Brigadier Al Zubeir Mohammad Saleh visited politicians held in Khartoum's Kobar prison Friday. Saleh ordered prison authorities to allow relatives to visit the detainees and give them medicines and newspapers. SUNA said.

His visit came after Amnesty International called on Khartoum's new leaders to either charge or free the politicians. Thim London-based human rights organisation said it also wanted assurances that those detained were not being ill-treated and were allowed access to lawyers, doctors and relatives. Cautious SPLA stand In Addis Ababa, Southern Sudanese rebels reacted cautiously Saturday to a proposal by Bashir for unconditional peace talks after he scrapped peace plans hammered out in months of negotiations. An official of the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) said the rebels would not react hastily to Bashir's suggestion Friday to start the peace process again from scratch. "Let him do whatever he likes and make any announcement he wishes. The SPLA will

only make its position known after it has received the clearest idea from the new military government on how to resolve the conflict in Sudan," the official told Reuters in Addis Ababa. Bashir rejected the draft peace agreement signed in Addis Ababa by the SPLA and Sudan's Democratic Unionist Party (DUP) last November. The DUP was a partner in Mahdi's coalition government. The pact, which was approved in principle by parliament, formed the basis of several rounds of peace talks earlier this year between Mahdi's government and the SPLA in the Ethiopian capital. Bashir told the Sudan News Agency that his ruling Revolutionary Council rejected the agreement and each side would have to formulate its own peace plan and negotiate each point. The SPLA has been fighting government troops since 1983 to end what it says is the domination of the south by the north.

مكتبة الأمل

Kabul forces press anti-rebel offensive

By Dilip Ganguly
Associated Press

SAMARKHIEL, Afghanistan — A few days ago, Samarkhiel was a key base for Afghan Mujahedeen guerrillas besieging government forces in the strategic city of Jalalabad, 12 kilometres to the northwest.

Now, both Jalalabad and Samarkhiel seem under firm government control as the Kabul government's forces press their offensive against the guerrillas.

Samarkhiel linked like an abandoned army Friday. There were thousands of bullets and grenades, hundreds of rockets and even a pair of boots left by the retreating guerrillas.

A government officer tipped off along a road, warning journalists brought here by the government to watch for mines left by the rebels.

Inside Jalalabad, Afghan government troops appeared to journalists to be in complete control of the city's fifth-largest city. A general said soldiers were advancing to destroy guerrilla bases on the frontier with Pakistan, 72 kilometres away.

"Once again, they dreamed to occupy Jalalabad, but once again we have destroyed them," said Lieutenant-General Manok Mangal, the military governor of Nangarhar province.

The battle for Jalalabad, the provincial capital, had been considered a key test of strength between government forces and the Mujahedeen in the wake of the withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan Feb. 15.

The guerrillas have acknowledged the loss of Samarkhiel. In

Pakistan, Azim Nasser-Zia of the National Islamic Front of Afghanistan, a rebel group, blamed the loss on a shortage of weapons and manpower.

But the rebels contended Friday they had stalled the government offensive outside Jalalabad after the loss of Samarkhiel.

Widely varying reports from government and rebel spokesmen have spoken of several hundred to more than 2,000 deaths in the Jalalabad battle, which began in March.

Capturing Jalalabad, 125 kilometres east of Kabul, would have given the guerrillas a solid base well within Afghanistan to run the interim government they have formed in Pakistan.

The government trip Friday for journalists was designed to show not only that Jalalabad, which has a population of 64,500, was under control, but that government troops were heading towards rebel bases on the frontier with Pakistan.

"We had information that the opponents were regrouping and planning another attack on Jalalabad," said Mangal, a 41-year-old former doctor who joined the army after the governing People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan (PDPA) seized power in 1978.

"We decided to strike first," he said. "Our strategy paid off and

now we are heading towards the bases on the border with Pakistan."

Pakistan, along with Western powers, has been supporting the Mujahedeen. Mangal said his forces were "100 per cent ready" to confront Pakistani troops if necessary.

The Afghan infantry backed by artillery fire and air cover was heading late Friday towards Ghazi-Ahmad, a town of orange groves that is still under guerrillas control.

Ghazi-Ahmad, where the orchards provide the guerrillas excellent cover from air attacks, is halfway between Jalalabad and the Pakistani border.

"I can tell you that the opponents are fleeing from Ghazi-Ahmad," Mangal asserted as he checked pistol tucked in his battle fatigues. "We are advancing to destroy the last bases of the opponents."

In Jalalabad, about 3,000 residents danced and paraded in the streets to celebrate the government's advances.

"We feel really safe now," said Mohammad Akbar, a farmer who took up arms against the Mujahedeen after his two sons were killed in a rebel rocket attack.

As the procession passed through the city, soldiers were seen hauling crates of ammunition.

"When you are at war, keep your weapons ready," a soldier said, quoting what his Soviet instructor told him during training four years ago in Kabul.

The soldier carried a box of magazines for Kalashnikov assault rifles, used widely by both the guerrillas and the government.



Helmeted Syrian soldiers sit next to wall plastered with pictures of Amal militia leader Nabih Berri and missing religious leader Moussa Sadr in West Beirut. Syrian troops halted street battles between the Amal militia and Hizbollah fighters Saturday.

Amal, Hizbollah clash again

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Rival Shi'ite gunmen shot it out in the streets of West Beirut Saturday and police said three people were killed and seven wounded in the battles.

Syrian troops moved in to two neighbourhoods to halt clashes between the Syrian-backed Shi'ite Amal militia and the pro-Iranian Hizbollah (Party of God). Thousands of residents in the suburbs of Ouzai and Genah left their basements Saturday morning after the Syrian troops secured the streets.

The inter-Shi'ite street clashes, which began June 30, were the latest between the militia rivals for the leadership of Lebanon's 1.3 million Shi'ites. Eight people have been killed

and 28 wounded in the gunbattles since July 1.

The latest clash erupted Friday when Amal militiamen tried to sell the movement's weekly magazine in Ouzai, a traditional Hizbollah stronghold. The gun-fights spread during the night to the nearby Haret Hreik district.

The Syrian army, which is in charge of security in West Beirut, deployed troops in the disputed districts early in the morning to enforce a ceasefire, a police spokesman said.

The situation is calm, but very tense," he added.

Truce agreement was reached during a meeting between Syrian Foreign Minister Farouq Al Sharaa and his Iranian counterpart Ali Akbar Velayati and leaders of the

Amal and Hizbollah, officials said in Damascus.

"Amal and Hizbollah agreed to end the clashes immediately and to adopt measures to deal with those who were responsible for the fighting," one official said.

The Amal delegation was led by Nabih Berri and the Hizbollah team by Abbas Mousawi, officials said.

Velayati, who arrived in Damascus Thursday, met Syrian President Hafez Al Assad at his palace in the port city of Latakia Friday and discussed Lebanon developments, diplomats said.

Syria and Iran brokered an agreement between Amal and Hizbollah at talks in Damascus in January which ended bitter fighting between the two groups.

Florakis: Pro-Israeli move will end coalition

ABU DHABI (AP) — Greek Communist Party leader Harilaos Florakis warned in a newspaper interview Saturday he would withdraw from Greece's coalition government if it adopted any pro-Israeli decisions.

"Our party will immediately withdraw from the government if any measures were taken in favour of Israel and at the expense of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO)," Florakis was quoted as saying by the state-run Al Itihad daily.

The newspaper said Florakis' warning was made after he had conferred with the PLO representative in Athens, Fuad Al Bitar.

Florakis head the Communist-dominated Coalition of Left and Progress which won 28 seats in the 300-member parliament in last month's hung election.

He forged an unprecedented alliance with the conservative New Democracy Party, which

won 145 seats, six short of a majority, to form a coalition which they said would govern for three months until new elections in October.

A coalition declaration said its mandate would be restricted to investigating the financial scandals that rocked the previous Socialist government, with all other issues, including foreign affairs, remaining in abeyance.

"The current government is a transitional one and cannot take a political step, such as recognising the Palestinian state, but the Communist Party will work on the issue of recognising the Palestinian state after the next elections," Florakis was quoted as saying.

New Democracy leader Constantine Mitsotakis had promised during the election campaign to raise Greece's diplomatic representation with Israel. The two countries maintain low-level diplomatic relations, but have nev-



Harilaos Florakis

or exchanged ambassadors.

Defeated Socialist leader Andreas Papandreu had maintained close relations with PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat, who visited Athens several times.

Papandreu also improved Greek relations with Israel and sent his foreign minister to Israel last year, the first such visit since the Zionist state was established in 1948.

Fateh revamping expected

BAGHDAD (AP) — The mainstream Fateh faction of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) is likely to elect Salah Khalaf, one of its two surviving co-founders, as Yasser Arafat's deputy at its fifth general conference in Tunisia later this month, Palestinian sources reported Saturday.

Khalaf will replace Khalil Al Wazir, who was assassinated in Tunis in April last year. The move was widely seen as a preliminary step towards his election as deputy commander of the PLO under Arafat, its chairman.

Fateh, founded in 1956 by Arafat, Wazir and Khalaf as a Palestinian underground network, is the biggest faction in the PLO with between 6,000 and 8,000 hardcore fighters.

It also has more than 40,000 non-military members involved in political cadres, labour unions, professional organisations and student groups among the world's five million Palestinians.

The assassination of Wazir, apparently by Israeli agents, was a major blow for Fateh and the PLO.

The sources, speaking on condition of anonymity, told the Associated Press that the one-week conference was expected to approve major organisational changes in the movement, but that no policy changes were likely.

The conference will also elect a new 12-man Central Committee. The present committee, elected at the last general conference in Damascus in 1980, currently only

numbers six members. Wazir and three others have been killed. Another, Nimr Saleh, was expelled after he defected to a pro-Syrian faction opposed to Arafat's policies.

Some 800 delegates are scheduled to attend the Tunis session in the last week of July.

The conference is also expected to elect an 80-member Revolutionary Council, which will group all the movement's senior commanders, the sources said.

The conference will endorse Arafat's peace initiative with Israel, a move bitterly opposed by radical Palestinian factions at odds with Arafat and viewed with some suspicion by other factions within the PLO.

Shamir warns Labour

TEL AVIV (R) — Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir warned the Labour Party Saturday it would pay dearly if it quit Israel's "national unity" cabinet over new headline conditions attached to Israel's election plan for the occupied territories.

"It's not the time for a split, it's time for unity and I think that if Labour will decide to do it, they will pay for it in the coming political confrontations," Shamir told Israel Radio.

Several Labour Party ministers have said that Shamir last Wednesday killed his plan by adopting conditions demanded by rightists within his own Likud party.

At a Likud central committee meeting Wednesday, Shamir won overwhelming support for his plan, but only after he vowed to bar Arab Jerusalem Palestinians from the ballot, continue Jewish settlement and prevent the creation of a Palestinian state.

Several Labour Party ministers have urged their party to withdraw from the government, saying that Likud's conditions would make the plan unacceptable to the Palestinians, Arab states and even the United States, Israel's closest ally.

"I will recommend to my colleagues that under these conditions, we cannot continue and participate in the national unity government," Energy Minister Moshe Shalal said.

Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin, co-author of the initiative for a poll to elect Palestinian delegates to talks with Israel on an interim settlement, said he would advise Labour to leave the government if it failed to find an Arab peace partner because of the Likud conditions.

Labour Party ministers were

due to meet Monday to discuss their next move. They postponed a meeting scheduled for Friday.

"I think it would be bad for our country and for our people (if Labour pulled out)," Shamir said.

"I am deeply convinced that in the existing situation, with the security conditions of our country, the international situation and the economic difficulties, it is absolutely necessary to maintain the national unity and the national unity government," he said.

Jackson blasts plan

In Cairo, U.S. civil rights leader Jesse Jackson Saturday attacked the Israeli proposal for elections in the occupied territories saying it called for Arafat and Israeli destruction.

"It is a formula for co-annihilation and we need a formula for co-existence," Jackson told reporters after talks with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak.

The election plan, said Jackson, "does not lead to the expan-

sion of negotiations but leads to further confrontation."

Later at a ceremony at Cairo University where he received an honorary degree, Jackson said he believed a two-state solution for the Arab-Israeli conflict would be in the interest of the United States.

"I understand it is in our interest to have an Israeli state within secure borders. But along with this, having a Palestinian state also within secure borders is also in our interest," he said.

Jackson, on a four-day visit to Cairo, said: "Egypt's role is just as pivotal as Japan and Europe. It is a superpower of moral authority and not of nuclear threat."

He urged Washington to help ease Egypt's economic problems. Cairo has an estimated foreign debt of \$50 billion, mostly owed to Western governments.

"Egypt is a necessary friend. Therefore, we must reduce the burden of debt payments. U.S.-Egyptian friendship must culminate in debt relief, cash flow and rescheduling of debts," he said.

U.S. tries to keep policy on course

(Continued from page 1)

"These are the kind of things that fall under the category of deal breakers," said the U.S. official, insisting on anonymity. "We had requested that both sides refrain from doing that. Both sides have done it."

The official said both sides are responding to the pressure of headline elements from within their respective ranks.

The Likud demands most upsetting to U.S. officials involve a pledge to continue expansion of Israeli settlements in the occu-

pied territories and a demand that elections be deferred until the Palestinians end the 19-month-old uprising.

Baker indicated Friday that one source of encouragement was that the new restrictions concerning the elections were those of Likud and not the Israeli government as a whole.

But the senior U.S. official seemed to acknowledge there is not much of a difference between the Likud position and that of the government under Israel's coalition arrangement between Likud and the Labour Party.

MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

OIC leader urges aid for ethnic Turks

ISTANBUL (R) — The secretary-general of the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) said Friday the Islamic World should help ease the plight of the ethnic Turks in Bulgaria. "The Islamic World can help these people and it should," Hamed Al Gabit told the semi-official Anatolian news agency at the Turkey-Bulgarian border as the mainly Muslim refugees poured into Turkey. "There are different kinds of help, one being political pressure (on Bulgaria) to help restore the rights of these people," he said. More than 138,000 refugees have fled to OIC-member Turkey since mid-May. Bulgaria denies the existence of an ethnic Turkish minority of around 1.5 million people and says their ancestors were forced to take Islamic names under Ottoman Turkish rule. Gabit, who will meet Foreign Minister Mesut Yilmaz before leaving Istanbul Sunday, said the Turkish government should be helped with the refugees. "It is under a big load," he said.

Trial date set for 6 Lebanese

LARNACA (R) — Six Lebanese accused of plotting to kill Lebanon's army commander Major-General Michel Aoun by firing a missile at his helicopter will stand trial on Oct. 9, a court in Cyprus ruled Friday. The court decided to commit the six directly to trial, saying a preliminary hearing was not necessary. The accused are identified as Imad Salama, Ali Khafaji, Emile Alan Eloun Ghazali, Teoufic Wadie Al Ahsar, Idriaa Jamal Jaber, Roustou Najib Serhan and Wadid Salim Salamah. They also face charges of illegally possessing arms and explosives. The six were arrested at the end of May after divers found two Soviet-made SAM-7 missiles in the sea off Larnaca, where the island's main airport is situated. Police seized five AK-47 rifles with ammunition, 28 grenades, three walkie-talkies, two SAM-7 trigger mechanisms and two rubber dinghies from a Larnaca flat. Security sources in Beirut have said an assassination squad planned to shoot down Aoun's helicopter when it arrived at Larnaca en route to Morocco for an Arab League summit in May.

Mubarak to be elected as OAU chairman

CAIRO (R) — Egypt's President Hosni Mubarak will become chairman of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) when Africa's heads of state meet in Addis Ababa July 24, an Egyptian minister said Friday. "The coming OAU session will be historic because President Mubarak will be elected chairman," Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Boutros Ghali told reporters. Mubarak is the only candidate, according to African diplomats. Cairo hosted the first Afro-Arab summit in 1977. Ghali said the Addis Ababa meeting would discuss Namibia, the conflict between Libya and Chad and African debt.

Iran demands compensation for Airbus

NICOSIA (AP) — The director of Iran's national carrier, Iran Air, demanded the United States pay unspecified compensation for a A-300 Airbus shot down over the Gulf last year by the U.S. navy, the official Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) reported Friday. The agency, monitored in Nicosia, said Mohsen Reza Majidi also demanded that Washington compensate the families of the 290 people who were killed when the airliner plunged into the waterway July 3 last year. Majidi said Washington had recently announced that it was willing to pay compensation directly to relatives of the victims, IRNA said. But "this is not acceptable to us and the U.S. must pay for the downed plane in addition to the compensation," he declared. The Iranian government, which commemorated the anniversary of the downing, it has been seeking a World Court verdict against the United States. Also, more than 200 victims' relatives are suing in U.S. courts the designers and manufacturers of the radar system of the USS Vincennes, the ship that downed the plane. A spokesman of the group said complaint was filed last month against the General Electric Corporation and other companies that helped produce the radar.

Tehran paper warns of violence

NICOSIA (AP) — A Tehran newspaper warned Saturday that Britain's Muslims might resort to violence if the British government continued to ignore their demand to punish Salman Rushdie, the author of the novel "The Satanic Verses," reported the official Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA). "The Muslims in Britain might have to consider ways that perhaps might not sit well with the desire for coexistence," the agency, which is monitored in Nicosia, quoted English-language daily Tehran Times as saying in an editorial. "If and when such developments shape up, it will be only out of ignorance that one could blame the Muslim community for the violence that might occur," the paper added. The warning came two days after a bomb blast heavily damaged a London bookshop in what British authorities said was a campaign against Rushdie's novel. Many Muslims consider the novel to be blasphemous and have demanded the amendment of Britain's blasphemy law so that legal action could be taken against Rushdie. The Indian-born author, who is a naturalised British citizen, has been in hiding since Feb. 14 when the late Iranian spiritual leader, Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini issued an edict urging Muslims to seek out and kill him. Two Iranian Muslim clergymen backed Khomeini's death call by offering a total of \$5.2 million for Rushdie's death. Muslims in Britain have staged several public demonstrations since then demanding the banning of the novel and Rushdie's punishment. Iran broke off diplomatic relations with London in March over Britain's stand in defence of Rushdie's freedom of expression. The Tehran Times said that it was predictable that given "the racist orientation" of the cabinet of British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, "no justice would be done to the Muslim minority."

Iran-Turkey border panel meets

NICOSIA (AP) — The Iranian-Turkish border commission met for the first time after 14 years Saturday, Iran's official Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) reported. The meeting in the northwestern Iranian town of Urumiyeh was seen as a further improvement in the recently strained relations between the two neighbours. IRNA, monitored in Nicosia, said the Iranian delegation was led by Zeinulabedin Ataie, governor of Iran's west Azerbaijan province. The Turkish side was led by Zeki Colik, director general of consular affairs at the Foreign Ministry.

JORDAN TELEVISION
Tel: 77311-19

PROGRAMME ONE
15:30 Koran
15:40 Programme review
15:45 Children programme
17:10 Football
18:00 News summary in Arabic
18:05 Local programme
18:10 Give Me a Break
18:20 Local programme
19:40 Programme review
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Arabic series
21:40 Programme review
21:50 Local programme
22:40 Varieties programme
23:00 News summary in Arabic

PROGRAMME TWO
17:30 Le monde magique chantal gory
18:00 Loth story
18:30 La chance aux chansons
19:00 News in French
19:15 Tanteia
19:30 News in Hebrew
19:45 Varieties programme
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Foul ups - Slaps & Blunders
21:10 Doc "Assignment Adventures"
22:00 News in English
22:30 Agatha Christie's Poirot

PRAYER TIMES
05:58 Fair
07:37 (Sunrise) Dula
12:41 Dhahr
16:21 'Asr

CHURCHES
St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swedish, Tel. 810740
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757
Terrasana Church Tel. 622366
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 625441
Anglican Church Tel. 623383, Tel. 628543
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771231
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751
Assuan International Church Tel. 685326
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811295
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 815817, 821264

WEATHER
Buletta supplied by the Department of Meteorology.
A slight rise in temperatures will occur and winds will be northerly moderate. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

AMMAN Min./Max. Temp. 19/32
Aqaba 26/41
Deserts 19/36
Jordan Valley 23/40

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 31, Aqaba 40. Humidity readings: Amman 51 per cent, Aqaba 35 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS
NIGHT DUTY
AMMAN: Dr. Munir Wardah 783352
Dr. Khaldoun Klob 836919
Dr. Ali Asad 879719
Dr. Abdul Wahab A'wad 846070
First pharmacy 661912
First pharmacy 778336
Al Asera pharmacy 670255
Nairookh pharmacy 626272
Al Salim pharmacy 636230
Yacoub pharmacy 644945
Shumaila pharmacy 676060

IRZED: Dr. 'Isam Al Saleh (-)
Al Shams pharmacy (985328)

ZARQA: Dr. Khamis Al Ja'bati (-)

Khalifeh pharmacy 985417

EMERGENCIES
Civil Defence Department 661111
Rescue 630341
Civil Defence Emergency 199
Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade 891228
Blood Bank 751231
Highway Police 943402
Traffic Police 896390
Public Security Department 686071
Hotel Complaints 628800
Price Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage 63752
Complaints 897467
Amman Municipality 751231
Complaints 672279
The Islamic Abadi 66612737
Al-Ahli, Abadi 6641646
Infirmary, Al-Muhajirin 771010
Al-Bashir, I. Ashrafieh 77511126
Army, Marka 89161125
Queen Alla Hospital 6224050
Amal Hospital 674155
ZARQA: Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)963322
Zarqa National Hospital (09)970771
Im Shua Hospital (09)96732
IRZED: Princess Basma Hospital (02)275555
Greek Catholic Hospital (02)272275
Im Al Nafes Hospital (02)247100
AQABA: Princess Haya Hospital (03)314111

HOSPITALS
AMMAN: Hussein Medical Centre 81381352
Khalifeh Maternity, J. Amn 6442816
Abdullah Maternity, J. Amn 6424412
Jabal Amman Maternity 623262
Malina, J. Amman 656140
Palestine, Shamsan 6641714
Shamsan Hospital 669151
University Hospital 845845
Al-Munster Hospital 6672279
The Islamic Abadi 66612737
Al-Ahli, Abadi 6641646
Infirmary, Al-Muhajirin 771010
Al-Bashir, I. Ashrafieh 77511126
Army, Marka 89161125
Queen Alla Hospital 6224050
Amal Hospital 674155
ZARQA: Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)963322
Zarqa National Hospital (09)970771
Im Shua Hospital (09)96732
IRZED: Princess Basma Hospital (02)275555
Greek Catholic Hospital (02)272275
Im Al Nafes Hospital (02)247100
AQABA: Princess Haya Hospital (03)314111

FOR THE TRAVELLER
QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (08)53200-5, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS
Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)
16:20 Jeddah (RJ)
16:30 Dhahran (RJ)
16:40 Kuwait (RJ)
16:45 Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)
16:50 Larnaca (RJ)
16:55 Beirut (RJ)
17:00 Cairo, Aqaba (RJ)
17:05 Moscow (add.) (RJ)
17:20 Los Angeles, Chicago, Vienna (RJ)
17:45 Dhahran (add.) (RJ)
17:45 Cairo (RJ)
18:00 New York, Amsterdam (RJ)
18:20 Paris (RJ)
18:45 Madrid, Geneva (RJ)
18:50 Brussels, Frankfurt (RJ)
19:00 London (RJ)
20:45 Rome (RJ)
21:15 Baghdad (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)
05:20 Dubai (AZ)
15:30 Cairo (MS)
15:45 Doha, Bahrain (GF)
16:30 Kuwait (KU)
16:40 Kuwait (KU)
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DEPARTURES
Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)
07:00 Moscow (add.) (RJ)
11:20 Istanbul, Ankara (RJ)
11:30 Rome (RJ)
11:45 Vienna, New York (RJ)
12:20 Tunis, Casablanca (RJ)
13:00 Dhahran (add.) (RJ)
13:30 Kuwait (KU)
16:15 Cairo, Aqaba (RJ)
16:40 Kuwait (KU)
16:45 Kuwait (KU)
16:50 Kuwait (KU)

NATIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

ROYAL DECREE: A Royal Decree has been issued endorsing the revised civil servants regulation. Under the amendment the cabinet, in special cases, will not be bound to adhere to the two provisions on the term of service and the duration of service between the first secondment of a civil servant and the second secondment, contained in the civil service regulation no. 1 (Petra).

CABINET MEETS: The Cabinet held a meeting Saturday evening under the chairmanship of Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister Salem Masa'deh and endorsed the executive programme of the cultural agreement between Jordan and Syria for 1989-1991. The Cabinet also endorsed a law which provides for the application of the promotion law of the civil servants number 33 to the Greater Amman Municipality employees. The Cabinet, also endorsed the appointment of Transport and Telecommunications Ministry Secretary General Mohammad Smadi and Director of Awqaf Property Department at the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Muflih Dabbas as members of the board of directors of the Hijaz Railway.

NSOUR VISITS DIBBIN CAMP: Education Minister Abdullah Al Nsour Saturday visited the third national girl guide gathering currently held at Dibbin permanent scouting camp and called on participants to act as one team and to crystallise organised collective work, reflecting the true spirit of belonging and abandoning singularism. Nsour stressed that such gatherings are capable of enhancing brotherly ties and providing opportunities for exchange of expertise. Taking part in the 10-day gathering are 250 girl guides from the various education departments throughout the country. (Petra)

ZAWAIDEH INSPECTS ROAD WORKS: Minister of Public Works and Housing Shafiq Zawaideh Saturday inspected progress of work in a number of road construction projects in the eastern region. Zawaideh began his inspection tour by a visit to the 137 kilometre, two-lane road which links Azraq with Safawi and met with the implementing bodies. The road will cost JD 36 million. Zawaideh also inspected progress of work in the 180 kilometre road, linking Azraq with Jafr and Bayer. The road will be constructed from concrete to cope with the excess axial loads. (Petra)

EXPATRIATES CONFERENCE: The information centre of the Fifth Jordanian Expatriates Conference has distributed about 10,000 booklets and leaflets on Jordan's economic, touristic, and cultural activities, as well as investment opportunities. The centre's director said that a number of Jordanian banks are participating effectively in the centre's activities. (Petra)

CHILDREN'S LIBRARY: Director general of the Department of Libraries, Documentation and National Department Dr. Ahmad Sharkas Friday opened the children's library at the Wadi Sir Women's Society. During the opening ceremony, Sharkas said that the department had presented a number of books covering a variety of subjects to public libraries in Ajloun, Wadi Mousa, Tafleh, Qweisneh, and Ader. (Petra)

COURSE ON FOOD ANALYSIS: Ministry of Health employees have joined a training course on food examination at the Jordan University of Science and Technology's Faculty of Medicine. The 45-day course includes practical training in laboratories and theoretical lectures. It is designed to promote the standard of participants in laboratory food analysis and in determining food quality. (Petra)

CAMBRIDGE STUDENTS VISIT UNIVERSITY: A delegation from the University of Cambridge student council visited the University of Jordan Saturday. The ten-person delegation was briefed on the language centre and the methods adopted in teaching foreign languages. The delegation also visited the library and other facilities. (J.T.)

COMMUNITY MEDICINE: Dean of the Faculty of Medicine at the Jordan University of Science and Technology Dr. Sa'd Hijazi left for Damascus Saturday. He will lecture postgraduate students of the Damascus University Faculty of Medicine on public health. The week-long visit falls within the Damascus University plans to promote the standard of students of public health. (Petra)

INDUSTRIAL EXHIBITION IN CAIRO: An agreement has been reached between the Jordanian Industries Exhibition in Cairo and the Egyptian Industries Exhibition in Amman, whereby the Jordanian Commercial Centres Corporation will pay Jordanians participating in the Cairo exhibition the proceeds of their direct sales, according to Ministry of Industry and Trade Secretary General Mohammad Al Saqqaf. Saqqaf called on Jordanian industrialists who took part in the Jordanian Industries Exhibition in Cairo to call the Jordanian Commercial Centres Corporation to get their sales proceeds. (Petra)

ARAB LEAGUE EDUCATIONAL TALKS: Ministry of Education Secretary General Muntaher Al Masri arrived in Tunis Friday to take part in the 6th meeting of the Arab undersecretaries of ministries of education now held in the Tunisian capital. During the three-day meetings, they will discuss the social and economic changes the Arab region is now witnessing, and their impact on the educational process. Taking part in the meeting are delegates from 15 Arab countries, in addition to representatives of the Arab League Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organisation (ALECSO) and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO). (Petra)

SYMPOSIUM ON CONTROL OF DIARRHOEA: A one-day symposium on control of diarrhoeal diseases will be held in Amman Friday. The symposium is organised by Health Ministry, the Jordanian Pharmacists Association and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF). It will tackle such issues as the treatment of diarrhoea and dehydration by using the most recent techniques, such as the oral rehydration therapy and the home-made oral solutions. The symposium is aimed at defining the problem of diarrhoea in Jordan and assessing its complications. (Petra)

COURSE ON GENERAL SAFETY: A total of 36 engineers and technicians from the Supply Ministry Saturday enrolled in a four-day specialised training course on general safety. The course is organised by the Ministry of Supply in cooperation with the Professional Health and Safety Institute and the Vocational Training Corporation. (Petra)

HOTEL GETS NEW GUEST RELATIONS MANAGER: Mr. Fawzi Dababneh, has been promoted to guest relations manager after three years service at Hotel Jordan Inter-Continental. Dababneh completed his higher education in Morocco in 1981 before joining the Hoteliers College in Amman for four years. After graduation from the Hoteliers College, he trained in various hotel outlets in Morocco and Germany. (J.T.)

MHEILAN RECEIVES IRAQI ENVOY: Chief Islamic Justice Sheikh Mohammad Mheilan Thursday received Iraqi Ambassador in Amman Ghafel Jassem Hussein on a farewell visit at the conclusion of his tour of duty in Jordan. (Petra)

6 SHOPS CLOSED IN ZARQA: Public Safety Committee in the Zarqa Governorate has decided to close down four bakeries and two butcheries for failing to abide by public health and safety conditions. (Petra)

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- ☆ An art exhibition by three Arab artists representing Bahrain, Syria and Jordan at the Housing Bank Art Gallery.
- ☆ An art exhibition entitled "Songs of the Earth" by Mohammad Nasrallah at the French Cultural Centre.
- ☆ A photography exhibition entitled "Constructed Narratives" at the British Council.

FILM

- ☆ A feature film entitled "The Empire Strikes Back" at the American Centre — 7:00 p.m.



Prime Minister Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker Saturday receives ACC Secretary General Hilmi Nammar at the Prime Ministry (Petra photo)

Sharif Zaid, Nammar discuss ACC

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker Saturday received Secretary General of the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) Hilmi Nammar, who briefed him on the steps the ACC general secretariat has so far taken in the course of its preparation to perform its duties

as entrusted to it by the ACC leaders.

Sharif Zaid stressed Jordan's interest in cooperation with the ACC general secretariat and in providing the right atmosphere for the secretariat to implement the ACC objectives, which serve the interests of the four founding states — Jordan, Iraq, Egypt and North Yemen — and the interests of the whole Arab World.

Khleifat receives Arab teams taking part in ACC marathon

AMMAN (Petra) — Youth Minister Awad Khleifat Saturday received heads of the Arab delegations taking part in the semi-marathon race for the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) states, which was held in Amman Friday.

Khleifat praised the idea for holding such a race to mark the establishment of the ACC and lauded the efforts made by the Jordan Athletes Association, which has organised this event.

The minister voiced hope that further meetings be held at the ACC and pan-Arab level.

At the end of the meeting, heads of the delegations presented the minister with a token gift.

Jordan won the first place in the first marathon to mark the establishment of the ACC. Iraq ranked second in the 21 kilometres race, followed by



His Royal Highness Prince Abdullah Friday crowns the Jordanian team as champions of the first ACC marathon (Petra photo)

Egypt and Yemen. At the end of the race, Prince Abdullah crowned the Jordanian team as the first marathon champions.

11 held for selling counterfeit dollars

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Narcotics and Forgery Control Department has recently seized 20,000 counterfeit dollars and arrested 11 persons in connection with this incident, according to a report in Al Dustour Arabic daily.

With this recent seizure, the number of counterfeit currency cases totalled 41, according to the report.

Director of the Narcotics and Forgery Control Department Col. Ghaleb Al Zu'bi told Al Dustour that the 11 people involved in the last incident, which took place a few days ago, have obtained the counterfeit dollars

abroad and that some of them were working as taxi drivers, who opted to deal with counterfeit currency in the black market.

Zu'bi said that his department has received information about these drivers, and consequently has subjected them to close control, which resulted in the arrest of one of them while trying to deliver \$5,000.

Upon investigation, he admitted of his guilt and disclosed the names of his associates.

However, Zu'bi noted, some of the victims were innocent people who were trying to buy foreign currency to send to their families

abroad. One of them is a non-Jordanian porter who bought \$600 at intervals to send to his family outside Jordan. After he was arrested, it was found out that the dollars he bought were counterfeit.

Zu'bi disclosed another incident involving three people who were offering to sell counterfeit dollars to people in hotels, fuel stations and stores in return for local currency.

Zu'bi pointed out that forging currency is an economic crime punishable by law and warned people against possessing or trading with counterfeit currency.



Sheikh Abdul Aziz Al Khayyat

Khayyat: all pilgrims are in good health

AMMAN (Petra) — Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Minister Sheikh Abdul Aziz Al Khayyat Saturday said that all Jordanian pilgrims are in good health and are performing their religious rights. Normally thanks to the efforts made by the Saudi authorities and the Jordanian pilgrimage teams, Khayyat said.

In a telephone conversation with the ministry's Secretary General Ahmad Hilayyel, Khayyat said he met with His Royal Highness Prince Majed Ibn Abdul Aziz, Emir of Mecca, and Saudi Minister of Haj and Islamic Waqaf Sheikh Abdul Wahab Abdul Wasil and discussed with them issues pertaining to this year's pilgrimage.

Khayyat thanked the Saudi authorities for their great efforts to ensure the comfort of all pilgrims.



University gets 800 books

THE UNIVERSITY of Jordan has received 800 books in various subjects and some 1,100 periodicals as donation from Fuad Salamah Abu Jassar. The books and periodicals cover many topics including medicine, history, social sciences, science and culture. The University of Jordan's Library Director Farouq Mansour voiced appreciation to Dr. Abu Jassar for his generous contribution to the university and presented him with the university shield in appreciation of his contribution.

Jordan's creditors form negotiating committee

LONDON (R) — Jordan's largest commercial bank creditors have set up a six-member committee to negotiate the country's first round of debt rescheduling talks, which are expected to begin in early August, bankers said.

The committee, co-chaired by Gulf International Bank B.S.C. and Standard Chartered Bank, was formed officially late Thursday at the end of a two-day meeting in London attended by Finance Minister Basil Jaradneh and about 20 leading bank creditors.

The other committee members are Banque Nationale de Paris, Commercial Bank of Kuwait, Manufacturers Hanover Trust Co and Union de Banques Arabes et Francaises (U.B.A.F.). Arab Bank Ltd will serve as an

advisor to the committee.

Jordan estimates its foreign debt at \$7.21 billion overall, but bankers were unwilling to say how much of the burden could be addressed through a bank rescheduling.

The country is scheduled to make debt repayments of just over \$1 billion this year, and Jaradneh has said Jordan hopes to save some \$650 million on debt servicing costs by rescheduling both public and private debt. Bankers said Jaradneh was due in Washington early next week

for talks with the International Monetary Fund (IMF), which is expected to give final approval on a \$125 million standby programme during his visit.

In addition to IMF standby funds, formal approval by the agency would facilitate the disbursement of up to \$150 million in loans from the World Bank and set the stage for rescheduling talks with the Paris Club of government creditors.

Bankers said the new committee will wait until after Jaradneh's talks with the IMF and Paris Club before initiating formal talks on a prospective rescheduling agreement.

An economic sub-committee of the new steering committee, headed by UBAF, is expected to visit Amman ahead of the August negotiations to examine the country's current economic situation.

Jordan to get \$10m credit for major educational programme

WASHINGTON (AP) — Jordan is getting a \$73-million World Bank loan to help launch a major 10-year programme to improve the country's primary, secondary and vocational schools.

The programme is aimed at providing Jordan with skilled manpower for export-oriented high technology industries and services and to revive its competitiveness in the Middle East's

skilled labour market," said an announcement issued Friday from World Bank headquarters. The 17-year World Bank loan at a variable interest rate, currently 7.65 per cent, is to cover the first of three phases of the programme expected to cost \$252.5 million in the next decade.

Projects planned under the programme include development of a textbook industry and training for 4,000 new primary and 1,500 secondary teachers and principals and supervisors, in-service training for 17,500 educators.

The programme also includes building about 180 new schools and new centres will be opened and a national centre for educational research is planned, the World Bank said.

Number of AIDS cases hits 27

AMMAN (J.T.) — A new case of Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) has been recently discovered in Jordan, thus bringing to 27 the number of AIDS cases so far reported in Jordan, according to a report in Al Ra'i Arabic daily.

The report quoted Health Ministry sources as saying the new victim has contracted the virus from abroad.

The sources said the health departments concerned are launching health education and

awareness campaigns designed to enlighten people of the dangers of this fatal disease and means of prevention from it.

So far three Jordanians have died of AIDS. The three have contracted the virus through blood transfusion during surgeries performed abroad, according to Dr. Hani Shammout, director of the Health Ministry's Communicable Diseases Department.

In an interview with the Jordan Times early 1988 Shammout ruled out the spread of AIDS in

Jordan, due to the "conservative, non-promiscuous nature of the community."

However, Shammout expressed concern over the potential exposure to the virus of approximately 70,000 Jordanian students studying abroad. "Our concern is that we cannot reach that segment of the population who will eventually return to the Kingdom," he said.

Experts have forecast the number of AIDS cases worldwide will reach over a million cases by 1991.

Private services development project appoints summer intern

By Mariam M. Shahin
Jordan Times Staff Writer

AMMAN — The executive director of the Private Services Development Project (PSDP), Dr. Issam Merai, has announced that a graduate student in the Faculty of Business Administration at the University of Jordan had been appointed as a summer intern to work with the project.

Dr. Merai pointed out that the assignment of Ghanim Al Jamal, complements the project's goals. The project, which opened its offices in Amman in September 1988, is designed to improve the quality of targeted services in order to:

- 1) Improve the export earnings of Jordanian firms by enhancing the competitiveness of goods and services in regional and international markets.

- 2) Increase the foreign exchange revenues for Jordan from the targeted services themselves.

- 3) Replace foreign consultants in the past have provided much of the consulting input in Jordan.

- 4) Generate jobs for professional and skilled workers in the Kingdom.

The PSDP is under the direction of the Ministry of Planning and is funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). The U.S.-based firm Deloitte Haskins and Sells is implementing the project in Jordan.

The summer intern programme falls in line with the project's stated target goals, which are:

- a) To create a strategy to expand service availability and the

range of domestic and foreign users.

- b) To establish the acceptability of the targeted services.

- c) To root the services firmly in the educational structure.

- d) To institutionalise the project structure for extension to other services.

Commenting on his appointment with PSDP, Jamal said he was especially pleased to be able to make practical use of his academic marketing training, and he was looking forward to working with a project the goals of which were targeted towards improving Jordan's export earnings and the quality of the four targeted services, which are accounting/auditing, computer services, industrial management and engineering, and marketing market research/advertising.

Jordan transcend conspiracies

(Continued from page 1)

The four ACC member states — Jordan, Egypt, Iraq and North Yemen — form an entity with a considerable population and geographic weight, the Crown Prince said. Integration among them is an advantage to each country individually and to the four collectively, he asserted.

"The ACC is but one stage towards comprehensive Arab unity... it has to achieve its goals and reach the level of the European economic union by the year 2000," the Crown Prince said.

In an attempt to achieve these concepts, and now that the proper conditions are prevailing in the Kingdom, Jordan has decided to return to parliamentary life, with elections scheduled to take place before the end of the year, he said.

"We look to having a parliament concerned with designating priorities and adopting organised legislation for institutions to enable them to play their prescribed role in building and development," the Regent said.

Prince Hassan paid tribute to the steadfastness of Palestinians in the Israeli-occupied territories, saying their sacrifices under tough conditions had proved that through organisation, management and solidarity, they were capable of resisting the enemy and standing up to its oppressive measures.

"Jordan totally supports the wishes of our Palestinian brothers... we have united with them in order to achieve their dream of self-determination and the establishment of their own independent state under the leadership of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), their sole legitimate representative,"

Prince Hassan said. Jordan's July 1988 decision to sever legal and administrative ties with the West Bank came as a step towards the establishment of a Palestinian state, the Crown Prince noted.

That decision was followed with certain necessary measures which served to translate the decision into a tangible reality. But the close relations and the unity between Jordan and Palestine was strong and could not be separated so quickly, Prince Hassan added.

"That is why some of the measures which we opted to apply were the subject of controversy and consideration by those whom they affected, especially those working abroad," he said.

"Undoubtedly, we are open-hearted and open-minded enough to do whatever we can without tampering with the spirit, aim and content of the disengagement (decision)... Jordan is more than willing to reconsider some of these decisions in order to facilitate (matters)," he added.

The Crown Prince suggested that the official name of the conference be changed from "the Jordanian expatriate conference" to the "conference for Jordanians working abroad," the reason being that the applied Arabic word for expatriate — "mugharrah" — comes from "gharh" meaning the west. Most Jordanian expatriates, he pointed out, work in the East and South and not only in the West.

Also addressing the conference was Labour Minister Jamal Al Bdour, who said that conference participants, coming from all parts of the world, would, over the next three days, discuss the economic readjustment phase which the Kingdom is currently

experiencing.

Conference participants will also discuss a number of working papers on Jordan's political and economic orientation, in addition to a paper on the role of science and technology in the process of nation-building. Papers presented by Jordanian expatriates will discuss their views and perceptions of participation in the development process.

Madhat Abdul Majid, who spoke on behalf of the expatriates, said that Jordanians living abroad had closely followed Jordan's political stand over the past year.

The Kingdom's decision to sever legal and administrative ties with the West Bank constituted a deepening of obligations to solve the Middle East problem and to enable the PLO to represent the Palestinian people in searching for a solution, he said.

Abdul Majid said expatriates also closely followed the economic developments which the country underwent in the past year and the events that took place following the "floating" of the dinar and the lifting of subsidies on some commodities.

"We realise that radical solutions (to the economic situation) requires in-depth studies and objective research that would reveal all the causes, define all the givens and define the alternatives," Abdul Majid said. He expressed hope that the government would undertake such a task.

Abdul Majid said expatriates were ready to offer all their expertise and capabilities to serve the country.

Attending the conference was Prime Minister Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker and Cabinet members and high ranking officials.

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Editorial Director:
RAKAN AL MAJALI

Director General:
DR. RADI AL WAQFI

Editor-in-Chief:
DR. WALEED M. SADI

Editorial and advertising offices:
Jordan Press Foundation,
University Road, P.O. Box 6710, Amman, Jordan.

Telephones: 667171-6, 670141-4, 684311, 684366
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Facsimile: 661242

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Welcome expatriates

THE FIFTH Jordanian expatriates conference began Saturday in Amman on a most brotherly note: How Jordanians living and working abroad can best help their brothers and sisters meet the peculiar economic and fiscal needs of their homeland in these trying times. Given the current conditions the on-going expatriates conference acquires a special urgency and meaning. It could very well be dubbed the "expatriates brotherhood conference" where the hands of Jordanians living in foreign countries are extended to the hands of Jordanians striving to develop and strengthen their country against great odds and untold conspiracies.

But this is not the whole story. There are always great opportunities — both economic and fiscal — that Jordan can offer Jordanian expatriates who are seeking new avenues for business. To be sure the devaluation of the Jordanian dinar is a blessing in disguise for expatriates. In many ways Jordan has become a "buyers market" in view of the current exchange rate of the dinar against foreign currencies. In other words, this is the very time to invest and buy in the Kingdom. Especially attractive are ventures which are export-oriented because the revenues of such businesses would come in hard currency. Similar benefits could be realised as a result of the favourable economic conditions in the country, namely relatively cheap labour and production costs.

One can be sure that the entire Jordanian economy will soon take a turn for the better, and all those who exploit the present circumstances stand to profit a great deal. In particular, the new ventures and investments that are export oriented stand to exploit advantageous fiscal and economic conditions for significant personal benefit.

Having said all this, it must be borne in mind by all Jordanian expatriates that the paramount interest of the country in them is both human and brotherly. One never ceases to be part of one's native land no matter how much he or she is removed from it. The whole country is proud of their successes and experiences. It is a special sense of joy and exhilaration for so many Jordanians to have done so well in foreign lands, and to have the opportunity to visit with them and share their emotions and aspirations. After all that is exactly what gives life a special meaning.



New Likud policy

JORDAN PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i daily on Saturday gave praise to His Majesty King Hussein for his endeavours to promote the principles of democracy in this country. The paper referred in particular to the King's nationwide address on Thursday in which he was open and clear about Jordan's position vis a vis the regional and pan-Arab issues and in which he reaffirmed the government's commitment for the coming parliamentary elections. The speech was not only an assurance for the people that the process of restoring parliamentary life was continuing, but also that the Jordanian leadership is concerned to pave the way for the public to share in the policy-making process, the paper noted. The paper said that King Hussein has offered a model of democratic method for dealing with the public and for government in this respect. Indeed, the paper added, the King's brave and wise leadership in the domestic and external affairs had won Jordan its excellent reputation world-wide and made the Jordanian people more proud of their monarch.

A columnist in Al Ra'i daily comments Saturday on the Israeli Likud Party's decision to further complicate the Palestine problem and consolidate occupation in the Arab lands. Abdul Rahim Omar notes that the Likud party has announced that it will oppose any move to grant the Palestinian people their basic rights and will never recognise the PLO nor will it ever allow a Palestinian state to be established in the occupied territories. The writer says that by announcing this the ruling party in Israel is, of course, relying on military force to perpetuate the Zionist hold over Arab territories and it is, therefore, futile to listen to more talk about dealing with the United States in this matter since it is Washington which provides the military equipment to consolidate Israel's occupation. The writer also notes that Israel is not sufficing itself with killing the Palestinians and driving them out of their homeland but they are also threatening to launch what it calls pre-emptive strikes on Arab countries. Omar says there can be no peace talks with Israel then because this state is bent on aggression and its declared policy is killing the Palestinian people and depriving them of their basic rights.

Sawt Al Shaab daily commented Saturday on the Jordanian expatriates conference which opens here Saturday. The paper said that the expatriates who are part of this country will acquaint themselves with the developments and will discuss means of helping their homeland to pursue the process of construction. The paper said that the expatriates have all reasons to be proud of their country for its past achievements and its determination to maintain the process of development, and they will have the chance to take part in this process. Indeed, said the paper, the expatriates have a responsibility to help their country and their countrymen — a responsibility which they will not shirk. It said the expatriates, who had served as ambassadors for Jordan abroad, will not spare any effort towards serving their country.

Sunday's Economic Pulse

What it takes to copy Singapore

By Dr. Faleh Faleh

DURING the recent Jordanian-Indian investment seminar, held in Amman, and organised by the Amman Chamber of Industry, the head of the Indian delegation noticed similarities between Jordan and Singapore in many ways, especially the size of the country and population, the quality of manpower, and the lack of natural resources. He even observed that Jordan may have some advantages over Singapore, due to its situation in the heart of the rich Middle East. Why, he inquired, not convert Jordan into the Singapore of the region?

The "Singaporeisation" of Jordan is a legitimate question, which was raised years ago by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, who was chairing the seminar. He took the opportunity to renew his call while responding to the speech delivered by the Indian businessman. The Crown Prince also elaborated on his economic role as an agent for change in the right direction, without necessarily having to be what the Indian friend thought him to be — controller of the executive decision-making, whose role is, of course, left to the government and businessmen in the private sector.

If the Singaporeisation of Jordan was only an ambitious or wild idea, serving to set big targets to look forward to, the renewal of this call in the current difficult circumstances may have a new strategic meaning and importance which should not be dismissed out of hand.

The conventional wisdom is that a country with economic and financial problems, like Jordan, is not expected, under the circumstances, to aim high. It is more than enough to seek stability and soft landing, and hope for the continuation of normal life at minimum sacrifices and social costs. But those who struggle for humble objectives may fail to achieve them.

Under conditions of retreat, a good army commander will not only ask his soldiers to keep their positions, or to delay the advancement of the enemy, but he would call on them to fight for victory and overcoming the enemy by initiating an offensive somewhere, to break the enemy lines and shift to a new level of confrontation.

Objectively speaking, the Singaporeans were qualified to

advance and achieve a real economic miracle through two major factors. The first is the productive and cheap labour which encouraged profitable investments, and the second is an efficient and proper public administration which managed the Singaporean economy in the right way, on scientific basis, and formulated policies and decisions based on down-to-earth social and economic feasibility.

The substantial depreciation of the Jordan dinar during the past 12 months, without adjustment to the nominal wages and salaries, helped Jordan to acquire the first qualification, which of course should be supported through more training and re-training, and adopting higher level industries with higher value added. The real reforms in the fields of economics, politics and administration can lead us to the second qualification.

It is of course understood that the experiences of the countries cannot be copied, because every country has its own particularities. Jordan does have the potential qualifications to become the Singapore of the Middle East, and can reproduce the economic miracle, once we have the national will.

Conservatives reign at U.S. high court

By Richard Carelli
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The U.S. Supreme Court's slow journey toward conservatism over the past two decades has become a quick march, paced by conservatives appointed by former President Ronald Reagan.

Headed by Chief Justice William H. Rehnquist, the court has used the past year to cut back abortion rights and curtail laws that required the hiring of women and minorities to redress inequalities. It also has limited other civil rights protections, condoned mandatory drug testing and permitted capital punishment for juvenile and retarded killers.

Thus, with three appointments, Reagan fundamentally reshaped the nation's highest court, and perhaps the future of U.S. law as well.

Reagan named Sandra Day O'Connor to the court in 1981, then promoted Rehnquist and appointed Antonin Scalia in 1986 after Chief Justice Warren E. Burger retired. Anthony M. Kennedy joined them early last year.

Kennedy tipped the balance of power in the court to the conservative side. In his first full term, he solidified a comparatively youthful conservative majority that has prevailed in a series of important 5-4 votes.

Allies with Rehnquist and Byron R. White, who was appointed by President John F. Kennedy in 1962, the Reagan appointees are now in control.

Conservatives two years ago were panning Rehnquist's first term as chief justice, dejectedly admitting that he had been outmaneuvered and overshadowed by William J. Brennan, the court's leading liberal.

Rehnquist clearly assumed a leadership role the next year, but not without joining in some surprising rulings that sparked commentators to say he had moderated his staunchly conservative ideology.

Two major exceptions to the court's conservative path through the 1970s and 1980s — abortion and civil rights — are exceptions no more.

Waiting until the last day of the 1988-89 term to announce a deci-

sion in its mostly closely watched case of the decade, the court last Monday gave states far greater power to regulate abortion.

The immediate impact: Abortions are likely to become harder to get.

In other key rulings in the past year, the court:

- Made it more difficult for minorities and women to prove on-the-job bias by using statistics.
- Gave white men more power to challenge court-approved affirmative action plans helping minorities and women as unlawful "reverse discrimination."
- Shielded states and state officials from some civil rights lawsuits.

— Limited the scope of a key civil rights law, ruling that it does not apply to racial or sexual harassment in employment.

— Ruled that states may not be sued under a federal law aimed at bettering the educational opportunities of handicapped people.

— Said federal prosecutors may seize the assets of defendants even if those assets were going to be used to hire a lawyer.

Each of those rulings came on 5-4 votes. In each, Brennan and justices Thurgood Marshall, Harry A. Blackmun and John Paul Stevens dissented.

The court's liberal wing, although most often in dissent, was not without its significant victories.

Most notably, Brennan wrote for a 5-4 majority that included Kennedy and Scalia when the court ruled that burning the U.S. flag is a constitutionally protected form of political protest.

And Brennan was the author when the court ruled, 5-4, that sentencing juries may consider a murder victim's personal traits when deciding whether the killer should receive life in prison or death.

The Supreme Court's sole role is to determine whether federal and state laws violate the constitution.

If they do not, federal and state legislative bodies are free to decide what the laws should be. The court has no police power to enforce its decisions, but it has a constitutional right to declare null and void any law that violates constitutional provisions.

10 years after revolution, Sandinistas remain strong despite troubled economy

By Julia Preston

MANAGUA — Ten years after the Sandinistas rode an armed uprising to power, their country is a wreck, and the socialist transformation they hoped to carry out has ground to a halt.

During the decade that the Sandinista National Liberation Front has ruled Nicaragua, at least 20,000 Nicaraguans joined the contras, the U.S.-supported Nicaraguan rebels, about 75,000 fled into political exile and as many as 200,000 out of a population of 3 million became economic refugees.

Nevertheless, the Sandinistas remain strong, cohesive and firmly in control of nearly every facet of Nicaraguan public life. And the nationwide 1979 insurrection against General Anastasio Somoza made lasting revolutionaries of many ordinary Nicaraguans.

By creating a uniquely ambiguous revolution, the Sandinistas survived the drive of the Reagan administration to destroy them and the transition into the new age of East-West détente.

The Sandinistas held an army of about 10,000 contras at bay for six years while gradually turning regional diplomacy in their favour, outmanoeuvring the United States and finally sidelining the U.S.-supported rebels at the negotiating table. Their tactics left the opposition parties in Nicaragua divided and weak.

On July 19, the Sandinistas will celebrate the 10th anniversary of the day they marched into Managua, two days after General Somoza fled. At that time, the Sandinistas had no more than 5,000 full-fledged members.

Currently, the Sandinista front has 37,500 members, and Sandinista organisations for young people, farmers, women and other sectors comprise about 250,000 persons. Sandinista officials said.

Independent polls indicate that about one-quarter of voting-age Nicaraguans support the Sandinistas' populist nationalism. And Nicaraguans who consider themselves revolutionaries remain by far the largest single political bloc in the country, dwarfing opposition groups.

After a decade of compromises and course corrections, the bedrock of the Sandinistas' programme can be difficult to define. But some constants remain: The Sandinistas continue to regard Washington as an oppressor and distrust official U.S. actions.

As their second decade in power

er begins, the Sandinistas are struggling to recover from the most painful economic debacle in Nicaraguan history.

Because of the economic weakness of the country and the regional pressure for democracy, the Sandinistas will also be vulnerable to international pressures to moderate.

In 1979 most Sandinistas shared a sympathy for Marxist-Leninist ideas, though few had a sophisticated grasp of them.

Bayardo Arce Castano, one of the nine members of the National Directorate of the Sandinista National Liberation Front, the Sandinistas' highest body, said that during the insurrection against General Somoza, "We began to see that the world was not divided into black and white, but that there were countless shades in between."

"We didn't want to commit ourselves to categories like Marxism-Leninism because our experience taught us that they were stigmatised by textbook definitions," said Mr. Arce, who also is the deputy coordinator of the Sandinista front's executive committee.

Sandinista leaders said that the radical social reforms they were planning to undertake in Nicaragua were now in place.

"We have already carried out the revolutionary changes that will happen in Nicaragua," Mr. Arce said.

During their first decade, the Sandinistas raised an army, which now numbers 70,000 regulars. They nationalised foreign trade, vastly expanded health care and schooling and stretched the arm of the state into nearly every public activity. They also resettled about 100,000 farmers from contra war zones. The agrarian changes put 40 per cent of the farmland under state or cooperative control, breaking the back of the landed elite that once sustained General Somoza.

The Sandinistas said that the policies of the Reagan administration, which backed the contras with \$265 million in seven years, forced them to relinquish their more ambitious plans to reshape Nicaragua.

Omar Cabezas, the head of the Sandinista community action movement, said that President Ronald Reagan was partially successful.

"He didn't throw us out of power," he said. "But he slowed us down about 50 years."

This spring, when the Sandinistas

tas were faced with war damage totaling \$12 billion, \$800 million in losses from a hurricane last year and a continuing U.S. trade embargo, they gutted the socialist-style state they had been building since 1979. The government laid off 30,000 public employees, slashed its budget by nearly half and returned to a free market.

The near-collapse of their social services for the poor is what saddens Sandinistas most about their first 10 years.

A key to the Sandinistas' endurance has been the unity of its collective leadership. In March 1979, the Cuban leader, Fidel Castro, helped rennate three feuding Sandinista factions into one guerrilla force led by the same nine men who sit on the National Directorate today.

Defence Minister Humberto Ortega's idea of allying with business a decade ago won the war against General Somoza. More recently, Humberto Ortega and his brother, President Daniel Ortega Saavedra, led the 1988 peace efforts that routed the contras diplomatically.

This year, for the first time, the Soviet Embassy approached private sector leaders in Managua, seeking to become a business partner in Nicaragua instead of just being a benefactor to the government.

When the Soviet leader, Mikhail S. Gorbachev, told President George Bush in May that the Soviet Union had temporarily stopped sending weapons to Nicaragua, the Sandinista president this spring shifted the focus of a desperate search for economic assistance to Western Europe.

The legacy of General Somoza's overthrow is that the Sandinistas control the army, the police, the legislature, the executive, the economic ministries, the foreign service, the television, the strongest radio and two of the three main newspapers.

But foreign diplomats in Managua agree that concessions the Sandinistas made under the two-year-old peace plan written by President Oscar Arias of Costa Rica have expanded political freedoms.

But for the Sandinista leaders, the February 1990 elections, the second national vote since 1979 — are a necessity thrust on them by international concern.

"To me, democracy doesn't consist of people going to vote from time to time," Mr. Arce

said. "I believe that voting is valid, but it's also valid for people to have education, health and means of subsistence, which permit them to exercise power."

As the election campaign opened last month, the Sandinista officials were ready to conduct a vote that would merit the approval of international observers. And some Sandinistas acknowledged that they could lose their majority in the 96-seat National Constituent Assembly.

But the Sandinistas are sure that Mr. Ortega will retain the presidency because they say that the opposition cannot offer a viable alternative to run Nicaragua at the national level.

The Sandinista leaders have made it clear that their political and economic concessions to the opposition and private enterprise may mean a truce but by no means an armistice in the underlying clash with those sectors of Nicaraguan society.

The economic troubles can be expected to exacerbate this clash during the campaign. Over the decade, countless skilled managers and technicians abandoned the country. Now, Mr. Ortega's economic team says that the government has little choice but to cultivate the confidence of the remaining private producers.

But instead of catering to the private sector, the Sandinistas are mainly concerned about keeping control of it.

Last month, Daniel Ortega issued an even more blunt threat to growers who do not produce on the Sandinistas' terms.

"We have the instruments of power to finish off whole sectors of our society quickly," he said. "We've made concessions to them, but we know we are living with scorpions in our shirt. If the scorpion gets too excited, we'll crush him."

In an interview, Jaime Wheelock, the agrarian-reform minister and one of the nine commandantes, said the prospects for pluralism in Nicaragua depended on the United States.

If Washington will leave the Sandinistas alone, just ignore them, Mr. Wheelock said, they will proceed with a fair election and continue opening to the West.

If the Bush administration reverses to Mr. Reagan's warlike policies, Mr. Wheelock said, the political changes "will go completely in reverse." — The Washington Post.

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Princess Wijdan Ali — missionary of the mixed media

By Sajid Rizvi

LONDON — The world of Islamic art has a growing constituency of admirers but body of individuals and institutions that can sustain it with cash is lean and weak. Art cannot thrive without patronage. Islamic art less so, and need now is for the high and mighty to bring out their cheque books.

That's not the way Her Royal Highness Princess Wijdan Ali is it, but she's close enough to bone. "What needs to be done is what was done in the West after the Industrial Revolution," she said in an interview. "We need to bring out their cheque books. We need patrons. We need patrons. We need patrons."

Princess Wijdan Ali, a cousin of His Majesty King Hussein and president of the Royal Society of Arts in Jordan, is at the head of a campaign to bring contemporary art of the Islamic world to

the West. As the first attempt in that direction, she has brought a selection of paintings from the Jordanian national gallery to London. These, representing art from across the Muslim world, will go on show in September.

She said that patronage of the arts was patchy, some countries figuring more prominently than others as patrons. But, she said, "We want a lot of patronage, we want knowledgeable patronage."

As for the pursuit of the arts by individuals, she said, the trend was "encouraging" with more galleries opening in the Middle East and elsewhere, the art works selling better than before and a greater general interest in things artistic.

Of course, she added, artists still faced difficulties while selling their work because of "ignorance" on the part of the societies they lived in. In the Middle East, those who are the nouveau riche now prefer to get works from abroad. "On the other hand," she said, "The educated people who are genuinely interested in the arts

don't have the money to collect."

She said, "I have noticed at the exhibitions that we hold at the Jordan National Gallery is that those who are genuinely interested are young couples in their late twenties and early thirties, who are building a life together, who have a young family to take care of. They have many obligations but they still spend for a good painting. They are starting to realise the importance of art in the home."

Princess Wijdan Ali, who is an artist and painter herself, said she aimed to develop the Jordanian national gallery as an international gallery for artists from across the Islamic world. "When the Royal Society of Fine Arts was formed our aim was to have a museum for artists, for Third World artists," she said. "This is our ultimate aim."

She said that in the developing world "art unfortunately is still looked upon as a hobby, shared by the idle, a luxury for the rich. It is not taken seriously. Very few artists can live off their art,

although more and more do live off their art than five or 10 years ago."

The collection at the Amman gallery, she said, was designed to give a chance to all the Islamic artists to exhibit their works under one roof, something so far unavailable. It was also designed to provide the artists with the much needed recognition.

Eventually, she said, she would like to provide facilities for artists to work in the gallery's environment. But money for the project was not yet available. "Give me the money and I will open an atelier in each little village in the whole of the Islamic world."

Princess Wijdan began planning for the London exhibition of contemporary art some two years ago. She said, her aim was twofold. "We hope to show the West that contemporary art in Islam still lives and contemporary artists do exist and they produce very fine pieces."

"We hope to expel the notion and the misconception that Mus-

lims are terrorists and fanatics. We hope to build our cultural and artistic bridges between the West and the East through the message — it's a very brief message — of beauty and peace."

Already some improvements are in evidence. The British Museum recently bought some contemporary Islamic works of art and other museums in Europe have cast some tentative glances towards the modern works. "I certainly hope," Princess Wijdan Ali said, "that the Western art world and Western art galleries would come out of their shells and take another look at modern Islamic art." She said she hoped that the Western institutions would "judge us not by Western aesthetics alone but by our own aesthetics as well."

The London exhibition, "United Contemporary Arts of the Islamic World," will be in London from September to October 1989, then travel to Europe, North America and some Muslim countries — Academic File.



Princess Wijdan Ali of Jordan in London during a recent visit.

Test-tube babies no longer taboo in Jordan

By Rana Sabbagh Reuters

AMMAN — Yusra Salim, childless for 24 years, cuddles her test-tube baby in delight.

"I still can't believe it," says Yusra, 42, who has named her five-month-old girl Hibatullah, Arabic for gift of God. She recalls her desperate shuttles from doctor to doctor until luck turned at Jordan's Centre for Infertility.

Hibatullah is one of 62 test-tube babies born thanks to the centre run by Zeid Al Keilani, a doctor who has pioneered in vitro fertilisation in the kingdom. The centre, the first in the Arab world, has tackled the infertility of about 500 women, many from outside Jordan, since Keilani launched his project in 1985.

In the Arab world fertility is prized and childless couples often feel a social stigma. Yusra gave birth with the centre's help long after her husband had taken a second wife who bore him children.

Women from all social groups, some wearing traditional headscarves, sit in Keilani's busy waiting room discussing their struggle to have a baby.

"God help me," mutters a young blonde as she heads for an operating theatre where doctors will retrieve eggs from her ovaries, the first stage in a 48-hour process.

The doctors will inject the eggs with her husband's sperm and, if fertilisation is successful, implant the embryo in her womb before letting pregnancy run its normal course.

Keilani, still in his light blue surgeon's robe, takes time at the end of a busy day to discuss his work.

"To start with, it was a scientific challenge and a new technique I had to cope with in Jordan right after it was introduced in Britain in 1978," he said. "Friends also warned me this scheme might be rejected in an Islamic country with a traditional society."

Keilani first secured a religious ruling from the Mufti, the senior Muslim authority in Jordan, who decided in 1985 that in vitro fertilisation for a married couple was acceptable to Islam as long as only the couple's sperm and eggs were used.

He set up a small, specially equipped clinic. After several failures Jordan's first test-tube baby

was born in April 1987.

Last year he moved to a one-storey building in a leafy compound masked by high walls in central Amman, where he now has a team of 25 doctors, laboratory technicians and counsellors.

"At the beginning couples were hesitant to accept the idea. They wanted reassurances about safety and privacy. Their families and the community were not very positive."

"Now it is becoming more acceptable. Some of the patients boast about having a test-tube baby because to them it means love, determination and passage through a tough test," he says.

According to Keilani, the centre has a 12 per cent success rate, comparable with those achieved in the West.

A couple which goes through

the fertilisation programme must pay 550 dinars (\$960), compared to at least \$2,000 if they seek a similar programme abroad.

"We feel it is more of a national project than a profit-making enterprise," Keilani says. "If there is a suitable patient who cannot afford the treatment, we help her from our own budget."

He is hoping that the relatively low charges and the past year's sharp depreciation in the dinar might attract infertile couples from Europe and the United States to Jordan.

"They can come for holidays in Jordan, visit the Holy Land and the wives can get pregnant too," Keilani says with a smile. Dr. Aref Bataineh, director of the Al-Hussein Medical Centre, has also made his mark in vitro fertilisation in the Kingdom.

Is a global disaster on the horizon?

By Robert Burns The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The shutdown of the Rancho Seco nuclear plant in California — the first forced by a voter initiative — is adding to the industry's ills, but analysts doubt it will set off a chain reaction of plant closures in the United States.

Rancho Seco began shutting down just hours after residents in Sacramento municipal utility district voted June 6 to pull the plug on a 15-year-old plant that flared a history of expensive shutdowns and poor management.

Anti-nuclear groups hailed the vote result, and some suggested it could prove a catalyst for other initiatives against other clear plants. But early indications are that the fallout will be much less dramatic.

"The circumstances with Rancho Seco were unique to Rancho Seco, so we're not going to have a domino effect," said Scott Denan, director of the Safe Energy Communication Council, a

Washington-based group opposed to nuclear power.

He added, however, that because it focused on the economics of nuclear power, the Rancho Seco campaign may lead to broader interest in alternative sources of energy, such as solar power, and efforts to make more efficient use of all energy supplies.

Industry supporters say Rancho Seco was an aberration, noting that 15 other citizen initiatives against nuclear power failed. They see no indication that the public wants to throw out the energy source.

"We think that Rancho Seco was not a vote against nuclear power, but a vote against the way that plant was run by upper management," said Scott Peters, a spokesman for the U.S. Council for Energy Awareness, a pro-nuclear group.

The U.S. nuclear industry has been stagnating for more than a decade, partly because of public wariness about safety and partly because of economic problems. No utility has ordered a new

nuclear plant since 1978, and many nuclear supporters agree with critics that no orders are likely before the turn of the century.

"I don't know of a single chief executive officer in our industry that would bet his company on a nuclear plant," said William McCollum Jr., president of the Edison Electric Institute, a trade group of privately owned utilities.

He called the Rancho Seco vote "not good for the public perception of nuclear power."

Many nuclear plants are run efficiently, but those that are not have blackened the industry's image.

Rancho Seco had a poor record, producing less than 40 per cent of the electricity that would have resulted from unfailing year-round operation — far below the industry average. The utility district had to double its rates over the past four years to pay for plant improvements that cost more than the reactor itself.

John Ahearn, a former chairman of the nuclear regulatory

commission, said he didn't expect the Rancho Seco vote to trigger a rash of citizen moves against nuclear power. He said the shutdown exposed an important weakness in the industry: the inability or unwillingness to force a poor-performing plant to change its ways.

"The industry knew very well that this was a terrible plant," he said, yet it turned a blind eye and in effect allowed nuclear critics to strengthen their hand.

Several other U.S. nuclear plants are suffering from poor performance, and the NRC, which regulates the nation's 109 operating reactors, says it's losing patience with some of the laggards.

Earlier this month, the NRC raised the possibility of taking the extraordinary step of closing down two reactors at the Turkey Point power station in Florida because of poor performance. The reactors have been on the commission's list of worst-run nuclear stations since it began the rating system in 1986.

In Maryland, the Calvert Cliffs Nuclear Plant has fallen into a rapid decline. Less than two years ago it was given rave reviews by an international inspection team. Now it is listed by the NRC as among the worst-run U.S. plants. The plant shut down its two reactors in May because of mechanical problems, creating a revenue drain and prospects of power shortages in the Baltimore area.

Despite these and other problems, the nuclear industry faces a less vocal public opposition than in the immediate aftermath of the 1979 reactor accident at Three Mile Island in Pennsylvania, which was the most severe in U.S. history.

There is relatively little organized campaigning, for example, to close Turkey Point or Calvert Cliffs. Even the Peach Bottom Nuclear Plant in Pennsylvania, which the NRC closed for about two years after control room operators were discovered sleeping on the job in 1987, faces little local opposition.



JTV PROGRAMME THIS WEEK: An eccentric millionaire, Benedict Farley, poses a problem to Poirot. Can a man be induced by hypnosis to dream so clearly of suicide that he is driven to commit the act against his own wishes? See *The Dream*, Sunday at 10:20. On Monday at 9:10 there is the second part of the miniseries *Around the World in 80 Days*. Fogge meets Sir Francis Commarty in Bombay who accompanies the travellers on the train to Calcutta. A strange procession passes by and Sir Francis explains that a princess is about to perish on a burning pyre along with the body of her husband. Fogge impulsively rushes out to save her. Gentlemen and Player Monday at 10:20 and the second miniseries *Young Charlie Chaplin* on Tuesday at 9:10 the continue, while Wednesday at 10:20 there is episode two of the miniseries *The Dark Angel*. After her father's death, Maud inherits his immense fortune. However, there is one awkward inheritance in the will. Maud is to become the ward of her uncle and provision in the will. Maud is to go to her twenty-first birthday, her fortune is to go to her uncle. On Thursday at 9:10 *Beauty and the Beast* continues in her uncle. On Thursday at 9:10 *Beauty and the Beast* continues in her uncle. On Thursday at 9:10 *Beauty and the Beast* continues in her uncle. This entitled: *Those Magnificent Men in Their Flying Machines*. This is a lavish and wonderfully photographed comedy-adventure about an air race from London to Paris during the early days of aviation.

Anti nuclear groups hail ballot results in the U.S.

By Peter James Spielmann The Associated Press

UNITED NATIONS — Entire nations could be wiped off the face of the earth by rising sea levels if the global warming trend is not reversed by the end of the century, according to a top U.N. environmental official.

Coastal flooding and crop failures would create an exodus of "eco-refugees" threatening political chaos, said Noel Brown, Director of the New York office of the U.N. Environment Programme, called UNEP.

Governments have a "10-year window" of opportunity to solve the "greenhouse effect" before it passes beyond human control, he recently told reporters.

"Nature will be far more Hobbesian — 'poor, nasty, and brutish' — in the next century if politicians fail to meet the challenge," Brown said.

As the warming melts polar icecaps, ocean levels will rise by up to one metre, enough to cover the Maldives, Seychelles, and other low-lying island nations, said Brown.

Coastal regions will be inundated one-sixth of Bangladesh could be flooded, displacing a fourth of its 90 million people. A fifth of Egypt's arable land in the Nile Delta would be flooded, cutting off its food supply, according to a joint UNEP and U.S. environmental protection agency study.

"Ecological refugees will become a major concern, and what's worse is you may find that people can move to drier ground, but the soils and the natural resources may not support life. Africa doesn't have to worry about land, but would you want to live in the Sahara?" he asked.

UNEP estimates it would cost the United States at least \$100

billion to protect its east coast alone.

Shifting climate patterns would bring back "dust bowl" conditions of the 1930s to Canadian and U.S. wheatlands, while the Soviet Union could reap bumper crops if it adapts its agriculture in time, according to a study by UNEP and the International Institute for Applied System Analysis.

Mian's use of fossil fuels and the burning of the rain forests is releasing excess carbon dioxide into the atmosphere.

The most conservative scientific estimates state that the earth's temperature will rise 1 to 4 degrees Centigrade in the next 30 years, according to Brown.

The difference in temperature may seem slight, he said, but the planet is only 5 degrees Centigrade warmer today than it was during the 8,000-year ice age that ended 10,000 years ago.

Conservationists call for ban on dolphin-killing shark nets

By Anthony Barker Reuters

DURBAN — South Africa's Natal province nets hundreds of sharks each year to protect its bathing beaches, but there is growing concern that the nets also kill dolphins, turtles and other harmless creatures.

"It is insane that the public has allowed this netting to continue for so long," said Harry Richards, a researcher at the University of Natal who is studying bottlenose dolphins.

The province spends millions of rand each year on nets, which kill some 1,400 sharks annually. But they also drown disturbing numbers of bottlenose and rare humpback dolphins, turtles and other harmless sea creatures.

Some critics ask whether nets, which are designed to trap and kill sharks, but not to keep them out altogether, do indeed reduce the incidence of attack.

The nets are large mesh, suspended from buoys in lines off the main bathing beaches. The sharks die in the nets from stress and because they cannot breathe easily when entangled.

There are wide gaps between the nets, through which sharks can swim up to bathing areas.

"Scientifically, it has not been proved that nets actually work," Richards said.

Some local conservationists warn that sharks are important predators, and killing them could disturb a marine environment already weakened by pollution from industry and pesticides.

The South African oceanographic research institute has suggested that the reduction of the shark population causes inflated stocks of lesser predators, which in turn overexploit stocks of smaller fish.

Biology lecturer Beulah Davies.

"I don't like killing sharks. I wish we did not have to do this to them," said Davies, a forceful woman clad in the board's blue uniform.

She said there had been only one or two reports of shark incidents in netted areas, clear evidence of the nets' efficiency. Attempts to find alternatives, including a scheme to create an electrical barrier around bathing beaches, had all failed.

In defence of nets she cited cases like that of teenager Belinda van schalkwyk, who was lying on a surfboard off an un-netted Natal beach one morning last year when a Zambezi shark surged out of the water and tore away her leg.

"She told me she had no part of her anatomy protruding off the board because she was terrified of sharks," Davies said.

It was a spate of seven attacks in 1987 and 1988 which caused panic among tourists and prompted Natal to start netting.

Davies joined the small, unscientific project in the early 1960s, and built it into an operation with an annual budget of \$2.3 million, three scientists and nearly 300 staff who monitor 43 kilometres of coastline. The board is funded by Natal province.

Its gleaming new headquarters at Umhlanga contain a museum dedicated to the danger posed by sharks, where children watch, deliciously horrified, as sharks are publicly dissected.

Davies says the nets are vital to a holiday industry which attracts 2.7 million visitors to the city of Durban alone and brings \$1.25 billion every year.

But Natal's several hundred coastal bottlenose dolphins are paying a heavy price. An average of 30 and a maximum of 50 have died annually in recent years.

An estimated 700,000 dolphins are caught in fishing nets world-

wide each year, but Richards, whose research is funded by a privately-funded environmental wildlife trust, fears the Natal may be outstripping the rate of reproduction.

"In the current state of knowledge, the catch is much too high to be safe," he said.

The sharks board has appointed a full-time scientist to look for ways to help dolphins avoid nets so far without success.

"At the moment I am just seeing darkness," Davies said.

She said Richards underestimated dolphin numbers and that there was no proof the nets caused significantly to environmental damage caused by fishing and pollution.

Richards is not alone in calling for the nets to be removed. "I would like to see the gradual phasing out of nets," said Keith Cooper, conservation director of the Wildlife Society. He believes the nets are effective but says the cost to marine life is too great.

The board's critics say the low number of attacks may be due to other factors — people are warned not to swim even in netted areas at night, dawn and dusk when sharks feed, and when sharks feed swimming is banned when water is murky or when shoals of fish bring sharks ashore and whaling, which used to attract sharks, ended in 1976.

They argue that attacks would still be very infrequent if the nets were removed.

Nets are not used in the United States, where coastal tourism seems unharmed by occasional shark attacks. In South Africa's Cape province, tourists swim happily in false bay where great white sharks pursue fur seals.

Some opponents even believe the existence of the profile sharks board may itself encourage fear of sharks and so make netting seem indispensable to the tourist industry.

Cinema **CONCORD** Tel: 677420

Scott Balo
Willie Aames
with
Charles in Charge
Zapped

Performances: 3:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30 p.m.

Cinema **ALJOUH** Tel: 675571

GOOD GUYS WEAR BLACK

Performances: 3:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30 p.m.

Cinema **PLAZA** Tel: 677420

JUST ONE OF THE GUYS

Performances: 3:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30 p.m.



High expenditure threatens Chinese economic reforms

PEKING (R) — China rang alarm bells Friday over a gaping state budget deficit aggravated by recent political upheavals, saying it was fuelling inflation and threatening economic reforms.

Finance Minister Wang Bing-qian, in a gloomy report published by the People's Daily, said government spending in the first five months of 1989 rose by twice as much as revenue, with taxes paid by state firms down 38 per cent over a year earlier.

He called on state firms to show more discipline and efficiency and on private ones to pay their taxes.

Building projects which Peking ordered stopped or cut down continued unabated while administrative expenditure, supposed to rise only 2.5 per cent, increased to 24 per cent, Wang went on.

"The financial situation is serious," the minister said. "If we do not solve it, it will be hard to correct the economy and control inflation ... and the reforms will be affected."

Back in March, before the weeks of student-led protests against official corruption and lack of basic human rights, which China says badly hit production, Wang predicted a 1989 budget deficit of 7.4 billion yuan (\$2 billion), against a 1988 shortfall of 8.049 billion (\$2.175 billion).

His latest speech did not include a revised estimate.

Under China's idiosyncratic accounting system, foreign loans and domestic bonds are counted as revenue. Using International Monetary Fund standards which exclude them, the projected 1989 deficit was 35 billion yuan (\$9.5 billion), up from 34.15 billion in 1988.

In an editorial, the Economic Daily said that, in addition to all its economic problems, China had to make up the "enormous losses" caused by weeks of political turmoil it said had affected the entire country.

All workers in government and Communist Party organisations have seen their summer holidays abruptly cancelled so that they can devote their energies to making up the losses.

A Western diplomat said these losses might not be as serious as the official press claimed.

"It is current political rhetoric to blame everything on the turmoil, even though published evidence shows that only a minority of cities were affected," he said.

More serious are long-standing defects in the economy such as shortages of farm goods, coal, oil,

power, steel and transport, excess capacity in manufacturing and processing industry, the diplomat added.

Wang's remedy for the growing deficit: State firms must improve management and cut subsidies, collective and private businesses must pay their taxes, and quotas for sales of treasury bonds must be met.

The China Economic News said the central government ran up budget deficits over the last 10 years amounting to 65 billion yuan (\$17.6 billion), as its share of the national wealth falls and that of provincial governments grows.

It said provinces allowed their firms to obtain reductions in taxes paid to Peking provided they dutifully paid local taxes, forcing Peking to take mandatory loans from the provinces which it could not repay.

Many ministries such as coal, railways, petrochemicals and tobacco failed to live up to their contracts with the finance ministry, being allowed to retain profits but pass on their losses, it added.

The China Economic News said there seemed no hope of China escaping from its financial plight unless it substantially increased production while raising the current low level of labour productivity.

Elephants split Africans

GABORONE (R) — A meeting of African nations on how to save the elephant collapsed Friday in almost total disagreement after four days of bitter argument between supporters and opponents of a ban on the ivory trade.

Delegates said the 15 countries gathered in Botswana's capital were unable to bridge a deep split between East African nations, who want a ban, and southern African countries, who oppose it. Kenya's wildlife director Richard Leakey said two scientists from Cameroon and Canada would shuttle between the two groups over the next few weeks in search of a possible compromise.

This would involve expelling southern Africa's healthy elephant populations from a total ban in exchange for improved controls to shut out ivory from elsewhere on the continent.

Asked if the elephant was threatened with extinction in southern Africa, Leakey replied: "At the present time, the answer is no. The populations in Botswana and Zimbabwe are strong, healthy and growing." The situation was similar in South Africa, he added.

A ban on ivory imports has already been imposed by the United States, the European Community and other nations as an emergency step to save the world's largest mammal from poachers.

Delegates said the debate behind closed doors was heated and acrimonious with some speakers "shaking with anger."

The meeting, organised by the Swiss-based International Convention on Trade in Endangered Species (CITES), was called to try to reconcile opposing African views before a conference of all 102 CITES member nations in October in Lausanne.

A two-thirds majority will be needed to move the elephant from appendix 2 of the convention to appendix 1, thus listing it as an endangered species and banning trade in ivory.

Leakey said Kenya and other ban supporters would leave open the possibility of agreeing to an amendment exempting southern Africa if they were satisfied that controls were strong enough to stop poached ivory being

siphoned southwards.

He said genetic "fingerprinting" of ivory could now make it possible to determine the origin of each individual tusk.

"Against that background it appeared it would indeed be legitimate to consider treating different regions of Africa on a different basis," he said.

"If there is agreement on controls, there is a probability that there will be a greatly reduced but nonetheless continuing legal trade in ivory."

East African elephant herds have been badly hit by poaching while the situation in Central Africa, where the animals live in dense forest and are hard to count, is also serious.

Kenya and Tanzania are leading the campaign for a ban, while Zimbabwe has been supported in its rejection of a ban by South Africa, its political arch-foe.

Southern African nations, including Zimbabwe, Botswana, South Africa, Zambia, Malawi and Mozambique, together have one-third of the continent's remaining 650,000 elephants.

Egyptian parliament approves new investment legislation

CAIRO (R) — The Egyptian parliament has approved a new law to encourage foreign and domestic investment in the private sector by offering tax breaks and simplifying bureaucratic controls.

The law, part of Egypt's efforts to overhaul its stagnant economy and promote growth through the private sector, was approved by the Peoples Assembly, little changed from original government proposals.

The law improves tax breaks available to new projects, offering tax exemptions for up to 10 years in some cases.

It gives sole responsibility for approving projects to the Investment Authority, a semi-independent government body, eliminating the need to seek approval from many different ministers and offices.

However, businessmen have criticised the draft law as not going far enough and said there were too many loopholes which could allow the government to impose state controls at a later stage.

One particularly ambiguous clause says private companies will

not be subject to price controls, but then adds that the government could at a later date impose price controls under certain circumstances for certain products.

However, businessmen said they could not comment on the final bill approved by parliament before studying its exact wording.

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) is urging Egypt to liberalise conditions for its private sector in current negotiations on rescheduling the country's heavy foreign debt.

ECONOMIC NEWS BRIEFS

Experts to examine ACC economies

SANAA (Petra) — A total of 60 economic experts from the four founding states of the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) will take part in a round table conference due to convene here at the end of this month to discuss scientific methods for developing trade. The experts will also discuss means of expanding and promoting investments in the council's states — Jordan, Iraq, Egypt and Yemen Arab Republic and will analyse the economic and commercial resources available in these countries. Taking part in the conference will also be observers from the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development, the Arab Monetary Fund and the Arab Investment Guarantee Corporation.

Bush promises to cancel African debt

WASHINGTON (AP) — President George Bush has announced the cancellation of the debt of sub-Saharan African countries to the United States. "Beginning Oct. 1 the U.S. government will forgive official development loans in the sub-Saharan countries," the president told a news conference. In 1987, the most recent year in which figures were immediately available, the State Department put the total of U.S. loans to sub-Saharan Africa at \$4.3 billion, including \$743 million in development loans, \$1.5 billion from the U.S. government's Export-Import Bank and \$1.2 billion in U.S. government loans to buy surplus American farm products. Bush did not say which of these categories would be included. Africa south of the Sahara desert is usually taken to mean all of Africa except South Africa and the North African countries on the Mediterranean — Egypt, Libya, Tunisia, Algeria and Morocco.

Baker announces \$13m ASEAN fund

BAJUDAR SERI BEGAWAN, Brunei (AP) — U.S. Secretary of State James Baker has announced that the U.S. is launching a \$13 million trade and investment programme in South East Asia. In a speech to a conference of the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) and its dialogue partners, Baker said the programme is aimed at providing reforms that will enhance market opportunities for U.S. and ASEAN companies. ASEAN comprises Malaysia, Singapore, Brunei, Thailand, the Philippines and Indonesia. Also attending the annual conference were representatives of the European Community, Canada, Australia, New Zealand and Japan. "It will also encourage trade and investment through trade missions and greater market information," Baker said, adding that the programme will create a new ASEAN growth fund. He did not give further details on the programme.

Argeritines load trolleys to the brim

BUENOS AIRES (R) — Argentines braced themselves for a tough economic package from the incoming government this weekend by stocking up on goods which are expected to shoot up in price. Queues half a kilometre long built up outside petrol stations as motorists lined up to beat the 500 per cent rise in fuel prices planned by the government of President-elect Carlos Menem which took office Saturday. Supermarkets have been packed over the past few days by housewives loading trolleys to the brim — despite recent price rises of 400 per cent for some household items. Many basic food prices have risen at a monthly rate of 250 per cent, surveys show. "It seems as if the shops are just adding an extra zero to their prices," said one shopper who had not been to the supermarket for several weeks. Official figures are expected to show an overall rise in living costs of over 100 per cent in June alone, following a 78.5 per cent increase in May.

Islamic states sign aviation accord

NICOSIA, Cyprus (AP) — Iran has signed agreements with Pakistan and Turkey on air transport cooperation, the official Islamic Republic News Agency has reported. The agency, monitored in Nicosia, said they were concluded in Tehran after three days of talks between Mohammad Reza Majidi, managing director of Iran's national carrier Iran Air, and the heads of the Turkish and Pakistani state airlines, Iran, Turkey and Pakistan form the Economic Cooperation Organisation. The agency quoted Majidi as saying the aviation agreements cover passenger and cargo transport, technical cooperation, flight crew training and preparation of halal, food prepared according to Islamic teachings, for passengers.

Passengers favour paying for security

GENEVA (R) — Four out of every five airline passengers would be willing to pay more for increased aviation security, according to a survey. The survey by the International Foundation of Airline Passengers Association (IFAPA) said almost half of Europeans polled and 60 per cent of Americans were dissatisfied with airport security. It was based on a sample of 1,250 passengers from 5,000 polled in European Community countries and the United States. A total of 80 per cent on both sides of the Atlantic said they would be willing to pay a nominal levy on tickets for a special fund to upgrade aviation security. Of these, a third would be prepared to pay between \$6 and \$10. Geneva-based IFAPA says the levy would help promote the use of better detection equipment and boost security management and training.

Saudi state body borrows \$660m

KUWAIT (R) — A Saudi Arabian state body has signed a \$660 million syndicated loan in what appears to be the first international borrowing by the Saudi government in a quarter century, bankers and economists have said.

In a syndicated loan, the Public Investment Fund (PIF) raised five-year funds at 16 point above the London Inter Bank Offered Rate (LIBOR) from a group of Saudi and Gulf banks, the bankers said.

Economists in Saudi Arabia speculated the government could be using the PIF as an indirect conduit to finance its budget deficit, projected at just under \$7 billion for 1989.

Saudi Arabia has run up a huge deficit every year since oil revenues fell sharply in the early 1980s, but has been traditionally shy of raising funds publicly both for religious reasons and because of memories of a borrowing spree that threw the economy into a tailspin in the late 1950s.

In mid-1988, after its foreign reserves began running low, the government started issuing rial-denominated treasury bonds locally to cover the spending gap.

Jordan Trade Association advances marketing techniques

By Najwa Najjar
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Looking for new markets or information on markets abroad?

Jordanian businessmen now have access to a newly established association which will provide them with a specialised library and an on and off line data bank linking Jordan to a wide-range of world markets.

On Jan. 1 of this year, the Jordan Trade Association (JTA) started operations aimed primarily at expanding, boosting and developing the export of Jordanian private sector goods and services.

The JTA was established in August 1988 in cooperation with the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) as a private, non-profit body. Such a project was deemed necessary upon individual and company requests for data bank to disseminate information on export opportunities to the industrial sector in the Kingdom.

Although the 24 Jordanian companies which founded JTA benefit from all the association's services, doors are open to non-member companies needing information on particular coun-

tries. Both member and non-member companies have access to an extensive data base and library facilities covering world export markets, trade opportunities, suitable channels for distribution, international trade laws, prevailing economic and financial situations, required technical specifications of goods and services and prices of products similar to Jordanian products.

Recently, the JTA obtained membership to the World Trade Centre. This entitles JTA members to use the facilities of over 150 world trade centres worldwide including a computerised communication system, an extensive data base and library facilities covering world markets, trade opportunities and government regulations and tariffs.

Further more, the on-line network exposes Jordanian products to four million people and gives them information on export potentials. The JTA further helps member companies by conducting studies on the viability of Jordanian products in various markets depending on the member company's demand. If necessary, the JTA conducts a field study to gather first hand data related to export opportunities for Jordanian goods and services.

According to JTA executive director, Mr. Halim Abu Rahmeh, the advantages of Jordanian products in competitive markets lies in the low cost of products due to the devaluation of the Jordanian dinar and the cheap and highly qualified labour.

AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

Saturday, July 8, 1989 Central Bank official rates				
	Buy	Sell	French franc	87.5 88.4
U.S. dollar	55.7	56.1	Japanese yen (for 100)	399.5 403.5
Pound Sterling	903.7	912.7	Dutch guilder	263.8 264.4
Deutsche mark	297.1	300.1	Swedish crown	86.6 87.5
Swiss franc	345.1	348.6	Italian Lira (for 100)	80.8 81.3
			Belgian franc (for 10)	44.2 44.6

Weekly Amman Financial Market trading

AMMAN (J.T.) — The following table summarises trading activities at the Amman Financial Market starting Saturday July 1, 89 and ending Wednesday July 5, 89. (Figures in Jordanian dinars).

Name of company	Number of shares	Volume of trade	Opening price	Closing price	Par value
Banking and financial institutions					
Industrial Development Bank	—	—	—	—	1,000
Petra Bank	900	1980	2,250	2,200	1,000
Jordan Islamic Bank	10525	24515	2,270	2,320	1,000
Jordan Kuwait Bank	505	723	1,460	1,410	1,000
Jordan Gulf Bank	4648	5131	1,100	1,100	1,000
Housing Bank	1625	2981	1,830	1,850	1,000
Arab Jordan Investment Bank	—	—	—	—	1,000
Cairo Amman Bank	—	—	—	—	5,000
Bank of Jordan	568	8539	15,050	15,000	5,000
Arab Bank	3545	588704	165,000	168,000	10,000
Jordan National Bank	29667	73174	2,470	2,480	1,000
Jordan Finance House for Development	—	—	—	—	1,000
Jordan Investment and Finance Corporation	5950	12777	2,420	2,350	1,000
Finance and Credit Corporation	—	—	—	—	1,000
National Financial Investments	—	—	—	—	1,000
National Portfolio Securities	35358	45575	1,300	1,300	1,000
National Finance Corporation (Jordan)	8750	15946	1,880	1,800	1,000
Jordan Securities Corporation	—	—	—	—	1,000
Real Estate Financing Corporation	—	—	—	—	2,000
Beit Al Mal Saving & Investment for Housing	10541	13493	1,260	1,260	1,000

Insurance and reinsurance

Middle East Insurance	—	—	—	—	1,000
Jordan French Insurance	18831	52830	2,880	2,680	1,000
REFCO Life Insurance	—	—	—	—	1,000
Jordan Insurance	14837	48660	3,300	3,250	1,000
Arab Life and Accident Insurance	1550	1674	1,100	1,080	1,000
Yarmouk Insurance and Reinsurance	—	—	—	—	1,000
Holy Land Insurance	—	—	—	—	1,000
Philadelphus Insurance	2800	3978	1,490	1,370	1,000
Arab Union International Insurance	—	—	—	—	1,000
Jerusalem Insurance	—	—	—	—	1,000
Jordan Gulf Insurance	—	—	—	—	1,000
General Arabia Insurance	—	—	—	—	1,000
National Ahliya Insurance	6433	9191	1,500	1,420	1,000
Arab Belgian Insurance and Reinsurance	—	—	—	—	1,000
United Insurance	—	—	—	—	1,000

Services and industries

General Investments	—	—	—	—	1,000
Imms for Investment and Financial Facilities	12146	11259	0.990	0.920	1,000
Darco for Housing and Investment	52493	41594	0.880	0.810	1,000
Real Estate Investment (Aqarco)	49104	32247	0.660	0.650	1,000
Jordan Gulf Real Estate Investment	31150	10903	0.360	0.350	1,000
Jordan Leasing Corporation	—	—	—	—	1,000
Petra Enterprises and Leasing Equipments	1944	314	0.670	0.650	1,000
Equipment Leasing & Maintenance/Tajecro	14450	5598	0.900	0.890	1,000
International Contracting & Investment	—	—	—	—	1,000
Jordanian Electric Power	9259	13497	1.470	1.490	1,000
Irbid District Electricity	—	—	—	—	1,000
Arab International Hotels	97777	122259	1.290	1.250	1,000
Hotels and Tourism	—	—	—	—	1,000
United Middle East and Commodore Hotels	—	—	—	—	1,000
Garage Owners Federation Office	1377	6197	4.500	4.500	1,000
Jordan National Shipping Lines	55600	72053	1.310	1.310	1,000
Jordan Press Foundation	—	—	—	—	1,000
Jordan Press and Publishing	—	—	—	—	1,000
Dar Al Shaab Press, Printing and Publishing	14750	4945	0.360	0.340	1,000
Jordan Dairy	43313	49970	1.160	1.150	1,000
Arab Pharmaceutical Manufacturing	25917	91472	3.570	3.530	1,000
Intermediate Petrochemical Industries	98210	211864	2.190	2.150	1,000
Jordan Phosphate Mines	4881	20012	4.100	4.100	1,000
Industrial, Commercial and Agricultural (Itatj)	3492	5862	1.790	1.700	1,000
Jordan Chemical Desegregation Industries	—	—	—	—	1,000
Jordan Kuwait for Agriculture Products	5000	3250	0.880	0.900	1,000
Jordan Sweets and Chocolate Manufacturing	—	—	—	—	1,000
Aladdin Industries	80943	211830	2.630	2.600	1,000
Arab Aluminium Manufacturing	76277	165255	2.180	2.170	1,000
Jordan Worsteds Mills	250	1188	4.790	4.750	1,000
Jordan Ceramics	34300	86440	2.220	2.200	1,000
Chemical Industries	1850	4527	2.450	2.430	1,000
Jordan Industries and Match (JIMCO)	343260	355314	1.020	1.120	1,000
Dar Al Dawa' for Development and Investment	4969	13311	2.700	2.700	1,000
National Steel Industries	13012	34631	2.710	2.650	1,000
Universal Chemical Industries	6400	20548	3.260	3.190	5,000
General Mining	—	—	—	—	1,000
Jordan Petroleum Refinery	25009	199329	7.950	8.000	1,000
Jordan Lime & Brick	32800	5226	0.160	0.150	1,000
National Industries	200	190	1.000	0.950	1,000
Arab Paper Converting and Trading	500	170	0.350	0.340	1,000
Arab Investment and International Trade	89733	56879	0.710	0.660	1,000
Jordan Wooden Industries (JWICO)	6900	19144	2.800	2.770	1,000
Livestock and Poultry	—	—	—	—	1,000
Jordan Pipes Manufacturing	21675	58571	2.250	2.300	1,000
Rafia Industrial for Plastic Bags	—	—	—	—	1,000
Jordan Paper and Cardboard	856	3463	4.000	4.100	1,000
Jordan Rockwool Industries	224650	292271	1.250	1.280	1,000
Trans-Jordan Minerals Research	400	316	0.750	0.790	1,000
Jordan Himeh Mineral	—	—	—	—	1,000
Orient Dry Batteries Factory	—	—	—	—	1,000
Woolen Industries	—	—	—	—	1,000
Jordan Tanning	1026	2011	1.950	1.980	5,000
Jordan Printing and Packaging	—	—	—	—	1,000
Jordan Tobacco and Cigarette	—	—	—	—	1,000
Mis Industries	—	—	—	—	1,000
Arab Center for Pharmaceuticals & Chemicals	350319	662619	1.830	1.990	1,000
National Cable & Wire Manufacturing	35200	90493	2.700	2.770	1,000
Jordan Spinning & Weaving	81339	107087	1.330	1.310	1,000
Jordan Polyethylene Chemicals	215000	474599	2.240	2.190	1,000
Jordan Cement Factories	82540	94635	1.040	1.030	1,000
Jordan Glass Industries	12560	13320	1.030	1.040	1,000
Jordan Precast Concrete Industry	38452	20484	0.750	0.740	1,000
Grand total	2,454,696	4,608,080			

SPORTS IN BRIEF

'GENTLEMAN TIM' FINED \$500 — Tim Mayotte, the American eighth seed, has been fined \$500 for smashing his racket during his Wimbledon men's singles quarter-final against title-holder Stefan Edberg Wednesday. Mayotte — known on the circuit as "Gentleman Tim" — lost his temper during the second-set tiebreak when umpire John Frame overruled a call against an Edberg serve, which the American had returned into the net, to give the Swede a 12-11 lead. Mayotte protested vehemently, demanding a let be played, but Frame stood firm. When Edberg won the tiebreak, Mayotte smashed his racket on the ground, collecting a warning from Frame. (R)

NAPOLI APPEAL REJECTED — The European Football Union (UEFA) Friday in Geneva rejected an appeal by Napoli of Italy against a fine of 100,000 Swiss francs (\$39,000) for crowd trouble during the first leg of the UEFA Cup Final they won last May. A UEFA statement said the appeal board had noted the club had again appealed for a reduction of the fine on the ground that setting off fireworks was the custom at their stadium. After a two-hour hearing in which evidence was taken from UEFA's delegate at the match, Briton Ted Croker, UEFA also ordered Napoli to pay appeal costs of 20,000 Swiss francs (\$12,500). The fine of 100,000 francs was the third imposed on the Italian club last season because of incidents involving their supporters. The aggregate total of 175,000 francs (\$103,000) is a record in UEFA's 35-year history. (R)

CALIFORNIA ANGELS DOWN MINNESOTA TWINS IN REMATCH — Bert Blyleven pitched a seven-hitter Friday night to lead the California Angels to a 5-2 victory over his old friend and teammate Frank Viola and the Minnesota Twins. Blyleven pitched seven scoreless innings last time but Viola and Minnesota won 2-1. "I couldn't let him get two-up on me. He would have never let me hear the end of it," Blyleven said. "I definitely wasn't as emotional as the last time (in Minnesota). This is my home now and I felt comfortable. I think I had better stuff that time, but I had better location this time." The victory moved the Angels back into first place in the American League West, one-half game ahead

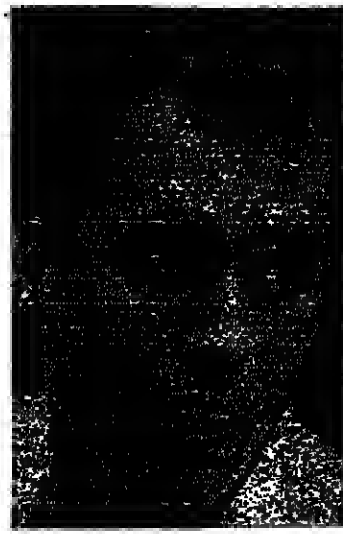
of Oakland, which lost to Texas 6-3. Elsewhere, it was: Kansas City 4, Chicago 2; Milwaukee 6, Baltimore 4; Boston 6, New York 4; Cleveland 4, Seattle 3 in 12 innings and Toronto 6, Detroit 4. (AP)

BRAZIL STILL SHAKY IN L. AMERICA CUP — Brazil was held to a 0-0 draw by Colombia in Rio de Janeiro Friday and must wait until their last qualifying match for a possible ticket to the final round of the South American soccer championship. The lack of goals belied the quality and excitement of the group one clash, which was played in a rainstorm in the second half in front of a crowd of 20,000 at Salvador's Fonte Nova stadium. The draw left Brazil in second place with four points, two less than Paraguay, who earlier became the first team to qualify for the final round when they beat Venezuela 3-0. Colombia, a point further back, meet Peru and Brazil face Paraguay in the remaining group matches in Recife Monday. If Colombia beat Peru the Brazilians will need at least a draw and a victory if the Colombians improve their goal difference. They are one goal short of Brazil. Two teams from each five-nation group go through to next week's final round in Rio de Janeiro's giant Maracan stadium.

JOCKEYS REVOLT IN SAFETY ROW — Ex-champion Steve Cauthen and 10 other jockeys revolted at the northern track of Beverly after a thunderstorm on Friday night. The jockeys had taken their mounts in the second race to the starting post when they decided that conditions were unsafe and returned to the parade ring without permission. The main problem lay on the home turn where torrential rain had made the going very slippery. The stewards decided the track was raceable but the jockeys continued their protest. Finally, after a delay of more than an hour and a further inspection, the stewards ruled that racing must go ahead. Nine jockeys contested the race but by then Cauthen and Walter Swinburn, with mounts in big races on Saturday, had already left the track. Cauthen said: "It was definitely dangerous." Swinburn added: "Eleven of us came back from the start and we can't all be wrong." The meeting had to be abandoned after the third race because by then it was too dark. (R)

Men and women's singles finals today at Wimbledon

Becker to meet Edberg



Ivan Lendl

LONDON (Agencies) — Former champion Boris Becker of West Germany beat world number one Ivan Lendl in a titanic, five-set semifinal Saturday to reach his fourth Wimbledon men's final in five years.

Third-seeded Becker, two sets to one down and within a point of falling 4-2 behind in the fourth set, won 7-5, 6-7, 2-6, 6-4, 6-3 in a four-hour match of volley and thunder.

In Sunday's final, Becker will play defending champion Stefan Edberg, the second seed, in a repeat of last year's title-decider which the Swede won in four sets. Becker was the winner in his two previous finals in 1985 and 1986. Edberg claimed his place in the final with a straight-set win over John McEnroe on Friday which

included a three-hour interruption because of rain. It was because of this that the Lendl-Becker semifinal was put back to Saturday, going on centre court before the women's final between Steffi Graf and Martina Navratilova was due to take place.

But rain that started as drizzle and turned into steady showers forced it to be postponed until 1 p.m. British summer time (1200 GMT) Sunday.

It will be the ninth time both singles titles have been decided on the same day at Wimbledon, and the first time since 1973.

After 10 days of fairly good weather and relatively uninterrupted schedules, rain has plagued the last two days of the 103rd edition of the grass-court championships. Drizzle halted Edberg's semifinal victory over John McEnroe for 3½ hours Friday and forced the Becker-Lendl match to be moved back a day. Then drizzle interrupted the match for just over an hour in the third set.

Becker's victory was his third in as many meetings with Lendl on the fast grass-courts of the All England Club and represented another major disappointment for the U.S.-based Czechoslovak who still has not won Wimbledon in 10 visits.

Lendl, who served well but once again paid the price for his erratic volleying, might have felt that a fifth set would work to his advantage. He had lost only one of 10 previous five-setters at Wimbledon but on this occasion became increasingly distracted by a series of line-call incidents as the match neared its climax.

Becker said he felt he had been

helped by a 75-minute interruption for rain when Lendl was 3-0 up in the third set. "That was definitely good for me. I could settle down. I could think again and come back fresh," said the 21-year-old West German.

McEnroe, playing his first semifinal at Wimbledon since 1984 when he won the last of his three titles, did everything right against Edberg but found his opponent in inspired form.

In every department — serving, volleying, returning, passing and especially speed — the Swede had the edge. But it was only an edge, and McEnroe said he couldn't have fought any harder.

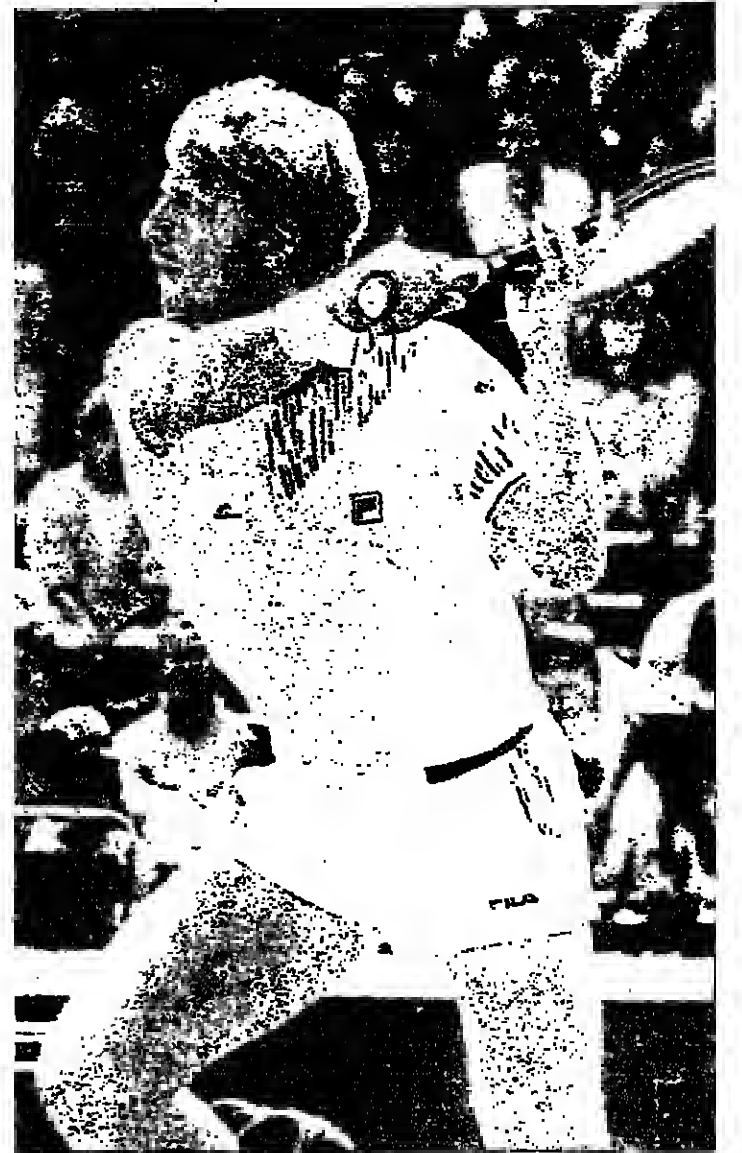
McEnroe, who had dropped sets against all but one of his previous opponents, began as if the match was his last. He broke Edberg for a 3-2 lead as the Swede double-faulted twice, then held for 4-2.

But with his first serve troubling him as badly as it had in previous rounds, McEnroe couldn't sustain the momentum.

He double-faulted twice to concede a break in the eighth game and Edberg broke him again for the set with two ripping winners and a couple of pin-point volleys.

McEnroe's reflex shots would have beaten most other players but Edberg's anticipation was supreme and in an intense second set, McEnroe saved a set point in the 12th game with an ace just before a sparrow flew on to the grass and briefly lifted the tension.

In all, the American served eight aces but also sent down nine double faults.



Boris Becker: a Herculean victory

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN
AND OMAR SHARIF
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BEAT THE BREAK

Neither vulnerable. South deals.
NORTH
♠ 7
♥ K 10 9 8
♦ K Q 9 8 4 2
♣ A 7

EAST
♠ K Q 10 9 3
♥ 4
♦ 10 6 5 3
♣ Q 10 9 5 4 3 2

SOUTH
♠ A J 8 6 5 4
♥ A J 6 3
♦ A 7
♣ 6

The bidding:
South West North East
1 ♠ 3 ♠ 3 ♠ 4 ♠
Pass Pass Dbl Pass
4 ♠ Pass Pass Dbl
Pass Pass Pass

Opening lead: Five of ♠
First reaction to a bad trump break is often blind panic. A far more sensible attitude is to look for a line that nullifies the whims of Dame Fortune.

West's jump to three clubs was a weak (very!) jump overall. South's decision to pass four clubs and then pull the double to show a better than minimum opening has the endorsement of this department. We feel,

however, that it might have been wiser for South to try four hearts en route. With careful play, 12 tricks can be made at hearts despite the 4-1 break.

Declarer, former world champion Peter Weichsel, realized that East probably held five spades for his double. He took the first trick with the ace of clubs and immediately led a trump. East shot up with the king, losing to the ace.

The diamond ace and a diamond to the queen followed. When West showed out on the second diamond, it became obvious that East was short in hearts. Declarer cashed the remaining high diamond, then ruffed a diamond to set up two long cards in the suit. A winning finesse of the eight of hearts put declarer in the critical seat. He simply led a winning diamond from the table.

If East ruffed low, declarer would overruff, repeat the heart finesse and the defenders would be held to three trump tricks. If East refused to trump, declarer would simply discard hearts, then lead a club from dummy to make sure that he picked off one of East's trumps with the jack of spades. In all, the defenders could take only three spade tricks.

Koch wins fencing title with deadly twist

DENVER (AP) — Alexander Koch, a 20-year-old student from Bonn, West Germany, used a twisting backhand attack to score a sudden-death touche Friday night, defeating France's Philippe Omnes, 12-11, and capturing the gold medal in men's foil at the 1989 World Fencing Championships.

Koch, winner of the junior world championships last year, struggled with the 29-year-old Omnes, a smooth lefthander who was a silver medalist on France's 1987 World Cup fencing team.

Omnes took home the silver and winning the bronze medal

was former world champion Mauro Numa, 28, of Italy, the 1984 Olympic foil champion.

He defeated Joachim Wendt, 25, of Austria, who had finished fourth in last summer's Olympic Games at Seoul.

Koch scored the first touche, then failed to fend off three direct attacks by Omnes that resulted in touches. The two fought back and forth, exchanging leads and were deadlocked at 8-8 when Omnes parried and repotted to go ahead 9-8.

Koch scored the next two points with his unusual backhand attack before Omnes rallied to tie

it up and then go ahead 11-10. Koch scored on another attack, beating Omnes' blade and scoring to deadlock at 11 each to put it into sudden death.

Faltering and failing to make the final round were several former world champions, including Stefani Cerioni, Numa's teammate from Italy who won the gold medal in foil at Seoul. Also failing to get into the medal round was five-time world champion Alexander Romanov, of the Soviet Union.

With them in the spectators' area was Matthias Gey of West Germany.

Pamplona reaps toll

PAMPLONA, Spain (AP) — The second running of the hells Saturday at the weeklong San Fermin festival left a Spanish man with a serious horn injury to the face and 41 others slightly injured as the fiesta made famous by American author Ernest Hemingway continued, police said.

The bulls ran the half-mile (one-kilometre) stretch from the pens through the narrow cobblestone streets of this northern city's old quarter to the bull ring in a quick two minutes and 37 seconds.

An estimated 1,000 youths scrambled ahead, police said.

A bull that strayed from the group seriously injured Luis Sanchez Becerro, 33, of Pamplona, goring him in the right cheek, Navarre hospital spokesman Dr. Manuel Garcia said.

Garcia said Sanchez Becerro underwent surgery and remained in serious but stable condition, while Jose Loza Penafiel, 52, of the northern Basque town of Iruia suffered a broken ankle after being trampled by a bull.

The rest of the injured were treated for bruises and scrapes at the seven Red Cross posts along the run route, the Red Cross said in a statement.

Hemingway's 1926 novel, "The Sun Also Rises," described in detail the rowdy, round-the-clock festival that starts daily with the morning runs of the bulls.

The festival is held annually from July 6-14 in honor of San Fermin, Pamplona's patron saint. The bull runs that started Friday take place every morning at 8 a.m. and each evening the matadors kill the same six bulls in bull

figts.

During the festival the city's normal 200,000 population doubles due to the thousands of tourists and enthusiasts it attracts from countries all over the world.

The festival has been held continuously since 1591, although it began in 1394 but was halted because of plagues and wars.

Since 1591 bulls have gored 52 people to death.

Pelier wins by 'suicidal' break

FUTUROSOCPE, France (R) — French rider Joel Pelier won the longest stage of the Tour De France with the longest breakaway of the race Friday, riding on his own for more than 180 kms.

Pelier, who established a lead of 18 minutes at one point on the 259-km sixth stage from Rennes to the Futuroscope theme park near Poitiers, hung on as tiredness set in to win by one minute 34 seconds.

Eddy Schurer of the Netherlands was second, two seconds ahead of the pack led in by sprinter Eric Vanderaerden of Belgium.

All the favourites finished in the main bunch and American Greg Lemond retained the race leader's yellow jersey. He has a five-second lead over Laurent Fignon of France.

Pelier, whose progress was punctuated by frequent showers and who finished during a downpour, said: "It was a bit suicidal when I attacked because there was a headwind."

"I think nobody behind me believed I could make it to the finish. They all thought they would see me again before the end of the stage."

Ryan wows old fans

ANAHEIM, California (AP) — Bob Hope looped a ceremonial first pitch, left the mound and waved to the 37,867 fans as they stood for a thunderous ovation — actually meant for the visiting team pitcher.

Nolan Ryan was crossing the field.

Ryan, 42, had returned to Anaheim stadium where he had starred from 1972-79. Now a Texas Ranger, Ryan baffled his former team, the Angels, in a three-hit, 12-strikeout, a 3-0 masterpiece Friday night.

"Coming out of the bullpen, I don't think I ever had a reception like that," said Ryan, who still holds most of the Angels' career pitching records.

After the standing ovation, Ryan said he let the emotions of the moment get the best of him in a shaky start in which he allowed two singles and had a wild pitch in the first two innings. Then he retired 22 of the last 23 batters.

Baseball's all-time leader in strikeouts with 4,923 also got an ovation at the end of the game, even though he ended the

Angels' 24-hour stay in first place in the American League West.

Ryan improved his 1989 record to 10-4 on the day he was named to the AL all-star team for Tuesday night's game — to be played at Anaheim stadium.

"What happened here tonight was one of the highlights of my career. It's something I'll always remember," said Ryan, who gave Angels fans a lot to remember as his fastball produced four no-hitters for the Angels in 1973-75. His record fifth no-bitter came with Houston in 1981.

It was his first appearance before an Angels home crowd since he left to join Houston from 1980-88. He had 131 of his 283 career victories while with the Angels, and 106 more with Houston before moving this year to the Rangers.

Still among baseball's fastest, Ryan has showed this season he also has one of the finest assortments of pitches, so much that he now often sets up hitters with sweeping curves and changes before the blowtorch fastball is seen.

THE BETTER HALF.

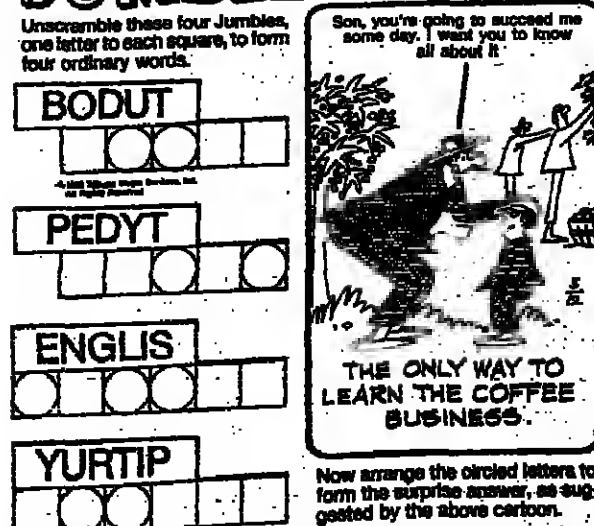
By Harris



"He never communicates with his wife, but you don't see her whining about it!"

JUMBLE.

by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee



Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

FORECAST FOR SUNDAY, JULY 9, 1989

YOUR DAILY HOROSCOPE

by Thomas Pearson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Institute

GENERAL TENDENCIES: There is a tendency to over control relationship concerns. Irksome situations stem from a refusal to accept shared duties and obligations. Decision-making is not favorable.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Wasteful and careless ways can add to life's confusion. Focus on people who are different and exciting. Disruptive attitudes will ease.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) An early disturbance will clear up through the day. Solutions are difficult but will work to your advantage in the final count.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) The financial caution light is lit, and it will be to your advantage to rearrange priorities and budgets. Love overtures appear.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21) Courtship annoyances for your own sense of emotional well-being. Today's choices reflect your fine taste and personality.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) Creative energy is high today, but you are not feeling settled. There is a tendency to scatter your energy. Pace yourself.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) You may have to hold back the yawns today. Plan for relaxation and involve yourself with easy and pleasing pastimes.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Temporary whims can sway your judgment. You worry about offending others. Use your sense of

humor.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Your work today may be of a secret nature. When privacy is important, work alone. A parent may probe your intentions.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Be patient in the forming of a significant relationship. You will find what you desire. Try a law-of-attraction diet.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Worry over a dead issue influences an otherwise productive day. Small favors and encouragement help heal sibling disappointment.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) This can be a fun day if you get up and at it early enough. Manage family affairs fairly. A country drive would be refreshing.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Your priorities are tested by others. Hold fast to an idea that is still in the incubation stage. Use your warm and witty personality.

IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY He or she will be bright, possess intellectual curiosity, and be popular. Your progeny will be successful at times with little effort expended, but may fail to complete what has been started. Prosperity will reach your son or daughter in peculiar ways.

"The Stars Impel; they do not compel." What you make of your life is largely up to you! © 1989, McNaught Synd.

Peanuts



B.C.

IT'S OPENING DAY, GREG. WANNA THROW OUT THE FIRST BALL?



BY JOHNNY HART

THEY CAN'T BE TOO FAR ADVANCED, WALT. THEY STILL HAVEN'T INVENTED RIVETS.



Andy Capp



Soviet help sought in Cambodia solution

ANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, Brunei (AP) — French President Francois Mitterrand has appealed to Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev for help in ensuring the success of an international peace conference on Cambodia, a senior Asian diplomat said Saturday.

Mitterrand telephoned Gorbachev and asked him to use his influence with Vietnam to hasten settlement of Cambodia's civil war, said the diplomat, speaking in a condition of anonymity. The Soviet Union is Vietnam's most powerful ally and main source of arms.

Vietnam intervened militarily in Cambodia in late 1978 to oust the brutal Khmer Rouge and install a government sympathetic to Hanoi. Its troops have remained in the country, battling a coalition of three rebel groups, but Vietnam has pledged to withdraw them by Sept. 30.

The diplomat, who was attending annual talks between members of the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) and their allies, said information on the contact between Mitterrand and Gorbachev was given by French Deputy Foreign Minister Edwige Avice to ASEAN officials Saturday.

France and Indonesia are co-chairing the planned Cambodian peace conference, scheduled to start July 30 in Paris. It would be the first meeting to include all the parties involved in the Cambodian war.

Indonesian Foreign Minister Ali Alatas said he and Avice met Saturday to discuss the problems Indonesia faced in organising two rounds of talks on Cambodia this past year.

Avice said the conference would be opening under "very positive circumstances" after China, a major supporter of the Cambodian rebel groups, formally confirmed it would participate. She told a news conference that

Peking was invited a member of the U.N. Security Council, and "its reply was drafted in very positive terms."

Diplomats had worried that China might take a tough stance on Cambodia issue since it was becoming internationally isolated because of its violence suppression of a pro-democracy movement.

The Paris conference is considered crucial because of the need to create a mechanism to monitor Vietnam's troop withdrawal and ensure it is not followed by renewed civil war.

There has been no sign, however, that the Cambodian government and the guerrilla groups are willing to make concessions on how to share power after Vietnamese troops leave.

All of the nations attending the annual ASEAN foreign ministers meeting this week called for a provisional national reconciliation government and a U.N.-sponsored international body to supervise the Vietnamese pullout and a general election.



DARING RUN.... A runner falls as bulls rush around a sharp corner at the beginning of Calle Estafeta in Pamplona, Spain, during the San Fermin Festival which began Friday (see story page 7).

Secrecy shroud pulled off 1982 Soviet soccer tragedy

MOSCOW (R) — Up to 340 soccer fans were crushed to death at a 1982 international match in Moscow as a result of police incompetence, a Soviet newspaper said Saturday.

It said the authorities covered up the tragedy, which was similar to the soccer disaster in the British city of Sheffield in April, when 95 people were trampled to death.

The Soviet disaster, at a UEFA cup game between Moscow Spartak and Haarlem of the Netherlands Oct. 20, 1982, was previously only hinted at in the Soviet press.

Earlier official accounts blamed it on soccer hooligans, then the target of a concerted campaign. But the detailed report in Sovetskiy Sport blamed it on Luzhnik stadium police, who had hustled departing fans down a single corridor. Hundreds of fans were

crushed to death on the only open staircase when a last-minute Soviet goal sent spectators surging back towards the field, the newspaper said.

The deaths were hinted at in April in connection with the British tragedy. No figures or details were given at the time.

Sovetskiy Sport said the authorities had staged an immediate cover-up cordoning off the stadium from curious onlookers and anxious parents and withholding the bodies for almost two weeks.

"On this black day, not only were the children of many parents killed but everything was done in order to kill off any pleasant memories of them," it said.

Officials at the time displayed red and white Spartak T-shirts said to have been worn by soccer hooligans. But Sovetskiy Sport said the

temperature on the night of the match was below freezing and said fans leaving the game early were forced down a single corridor by a line of police, eager to clear the stadium and go home.

When Spartak's Sergei Shvetsov scored a goal with just 20 seconds remaining, fans nearest the exit rushed back up the staircase only to be blocked by others being forced out.

"At the moment, the shouts of joy turned into cries of horror," the sports daily said. Hundred were trampled. Shvetsov later told the newspaper he still regretted scoring the goal.

One witness said he had seen crumpled bodies lying on the frozen ground before he was shoed away by police.

Parents of victims said they were allowed just 40 minutes with the bodies, and then only in the presence of police, before they were buried.



Carlos Menem

Menem assumes Argentine presidency

BUENOS AIRES (R) — Carlos Menem, a flamboyant populist from Argentina's impoverished northwest, was sworn in as the country's 46th president Saturday.

Menem, 59, took power in the midst of the country's worst economic crisis after his Peronist Party trounced the Radical Party of his predecessor, Raul Alfonsin, in elections May 14.

The new government was expected to announce tough austerity measures over the weekend to combat rocketing inflation. Prices more than doubled during June alone.

The deepening economic crisis forced Alfonsin to bring forward by five months the first transfer of power from one elected president to another in 61 years.

When he took over from the military in 1983, Alfonsin was hailed internationally as a symbol of new Latin American democracies. On Saturday he handed over a legacy of stagnating industry, rising unemployment and widespread poverty.

Prices stamped further in the week before Menem's inauguration as factories and retailers hedged against rumoured price controls.

The prices of bread and milk tumbled. A bottle of mineral water rocketed from 38 australs to 200, the equivalent of four hours' pay for a housemaid.

Peronist sources said the economic package, due to be announced by new Finance Minister Miguel Roig Sunday, would include a 100 per cent devaluation of the troubled austral, massive increases in public utility rates and a five-fold rise in petrol prices.

Menem, the son of an immigrant Syrian travelling salesman, has warned Argentines to brace themselves for harsh measures.

"The measures are tough, very tough. The time has come for sacrifice so that we can create, accumulate and reactivate wealth through production," he said recently.

In an acceptance speech that repeatedly was interrupted by applause, Menem called for national unity to resolve Argentina's political, social and economic problems.

"Argentina is not well," he said. "It's broken... from these ruins, we will construct the country we deserve... this crisis is not an excuse. It is an opportunity, a challenge."

In a short written statement read by the parliamentary secretary, Alfonsin said: "The government's room for action was too limited to have much chance of success in dealing with problems in which any delay would cause greater suffering for everyone."

Uno minister sparks row over women, then apologises

TOKYO (Agencies) — A row flared Saturday over a remark by a senior minister in Prime Minister Sosuke Uno's cabinet, ridden by sex scandals, that women have no place in politics.

But Agriculture Minister Hisao Horinouchi quickly called a news conference to retract the offending comments, the national broadcasting network NHK said.

"I sincerely apologise for putting many women to much trouble," Horinouchi said.

NHK said Uno and leaders of the beleaguered Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) urged the minister to take back his remarks, fearing they might cost the ruling party women's votes in parliamentary elections later this month.

The row flared when major newspapers quoted Horinouchi as telling supporters in western Japan Friday that the head of the opposition Japan Socialist Party, Takako Doi, was unfit to rule because she was single and childless.

"Women have no place in politics," Horinouchi, 64, was quoted as saying, though he added that British Prime Minister Margaret

Thatcher was an exception.

The LDP was already under fire from women voters because of Uno's alleged affairs with grish girls and bar hostesses as well as an unpopular sales tax introduced in April.

Media reports said Horinouchi's remarks referred to the victory of a little-known woman socialist in an upper house by-election last month and the election of a record 17 women, 12 of them socialists, to the Tokyo municipal assembly a week ago.

Before the minister's retraction, Uno told Chief Cabinet Secretary Masajiro Shiokawa to check whether Horinouchi made the reported remarks and if so to reprimand him.

Doi, campaigning in Osaka, western Japan, said the remarks could spark an international incident. Kyodo news service reported.

"He apparently doesn't realise that women are no longer willing to keep silent about politics," she was quoted as saying.

Horinouchi's remarks, published on the front pages Saturday of the Mainichi Shimbun and the Yomiuri Shimbun, two of the

country's major dailies, ignited anger among women.

A woman who answered the phone at the election committee of the LDP told the Associated Press that Horinouchi's remarks were "unpleasant and ridiculous."

"Women are finally getting interested in and trying to participate in politics," said the official, who requested anonymity. "So I resent any statement that interferes with the trend."

Doi told Kyodo Saturday that Horinouchi's remarks only show how much the ruling party has lost touch with the people.

Doi said the remarks may further infuriate female voters against the ruling party. She also expressed concern that since Horinouchi is a cabinet minister, his remarks may be criticised at the international level.

In a by-election June 29 in northern Niigata, socialist candidate Kinuko Ofuchi, a 44-year-old mother of two, defeated an LDP candidate. And in a July 2 election for 128 seats in the Tokyo metropolitan assembly, 17 women were elected, up from seven in the previous elections in 1985.

COLUMN

'Spoiled' dogs

PALM BEACH, Florida (AP) — A dog's life is not anything to complain about around Palm Beach. At the Yuppy Puppy in nearby Coral Springs, a massaging dog's fingers into dogs. A nearby health spa offers a bubbling jacuzzi for the family pet. And a groomer in nearby Falls Springs dispatches limousines to fetch lazy lap dogs. Toy Poodle Korbel's third birthday present last month was the full treatment at the Yuppy Puppy. An hour-long grooming session followed by a massage, shampoo, and whirlpool bath. The \$40 session wound up with wheat snacks and spring water from the French Alps. "This is my child," said Luis Torres. "He has the best hair there is. He's spoiled brat." Coral Springs also has an animal psychologist, while an animal doctor in Vero Beach will cap the family pet's unruly teeth. In Miami, a jeweller will pamper a dog's ears. Shops in Fort Lauderdale and Coral Springs market such items as Beverly Hills dog cologne at about \$7 a bottle and designer pet pajamas for \$13.95 a pair. Poodle paradise in Palm Springs offers \$150-mink and cashmere coats. Diamond collars also are available.

Global weather

(major world cities)

	MIN.	MAX.	Weather
AMSTERDAM	18	21	70 Cloudy
ATHENS	24	34	93 Cloudy
BAHRAIN	30	36	86 Clear
BANGKOK	28	34	93 Clear
BUEENOS AIRES	22	31	80 Clear
CARACAS	25	32	86 Clear
CHICAGO	21	29	87 Clear
COPENHAGEN	20	26	80 Clear
FRANKFURT	18	24	75 Clear
GENEVA	18	25	77 Cloudy
HONG KONG	28	32	91 Clear
ISTANBUL	19	29	84 Clear
LONDON	17	24	75 Cloudy
LOS ANGELES	19	26	81 Cloudy
MADRID	18	26	86 Clear
MEXICO	28	34	93 Clear
MONTREAL	21	27	81 Cloudy
MOSCOW	12	24	75 Cloudy
NEW DELHI	27	30	86 Clear
NEW YORK	22	31	91 Clear
PARIS	18	26	81 Clear
ROME	16	24	75 Clear
SYDNEY	06	16	61 Clear
TOKYO	20	27	81 Cloudy
VIENNA	19	26	81 Clear

M - indicates missing information.

Seoul upholds N. Korean bomber's death sentence

SEOUL (R) — South Korea's state prosecutors Saturday supported the death sentence imposed on a self-avowed North Korean agent who admitted to blowing up a southern airliner, killing all 115 people on board, state radio said.

Kim Hyun-Hui, 27, was sentenced to death in April after confessing she had planted bombs on a Korean Air Lines (KAL) Boeing 707 in November 1987 on the orders of Kim Jong-Il, son and heir-designate of North Korean President Kim Il-Sung.

"We see no extenuating circumstances for any leniency towards the defendant," the radio quoted chief prosecutor Lee Sang-Hyong as telling a Seoul high court as it began hearing Kim's appeal.

"As a determined agent who had undergone special anti-South training for seven years and eight months at the hands of the North Korean communist group, she carried out the cold-blooded murder of 115 innocent people in an attempt to deal a severe blow to the Republic of (South) Korea," he said.

A court verdict is expected July 22. Seoul officials have said the government will probably spare her life under a clemency order on grounds that she was merely a pawn in North Korea's military towards the South.

The prosecution says Kim deserves execution in light of international conventions that require heavy punishment for air terrorism.

Kim has said her aim was to scare countries away from the 1988 Seoul Olympics, which Pyongyang boycotted after failing to win co-hosting rights. In the event, a record 160 countries, including staunch North Korean allies the Soviet Union and China, attended the games.

Pyeongyang denies involvement in the destruction of the Baghdad-Seoul Flight 858, which vanished over the Andaman Sea off the Burmese coast. No bodies were ever recovered.

Kim was extradited to South Korea in December 1987 from Bahrain, where she and an elderly male companion were detained. They had left the doomed aircraft during a stopover in Abu Dhabi after planting the bombs on board.

Her companion committed suicide by swallowing cyanide pills when stopped by Bahraini authorities. Kim also took poison but survived to make a full confession on South Korean television in January 1988.

Kim's defence counsel said she should be acquitted, arguing: "The real culprit who should be punished is none other than Kim Jong-Il."

Kim Hyun-Hui, an attractive woman wearing a white sports jacket and beige trousers, said between sobs: orders from Kim Il-Sung, Kim Jong-Il and the workers (Communist) Party are not to be challenged at any cost in North Korea."

Kim's court hearings in March and April were frequently disrupted by enraged relatives screaming for her blood, shouting abuse, struggling with guards, smashing chairs and throwing shoes and other objects at her.

The prices of bread and milk tumbled. A bottle of mineral water rocketed from 38 australs to 200, the equivalent of four hours' pay for a housemaid.

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country's major dailies, ignited anger among women.

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European travellers face crowded skies

BRUSSELS (R) — Crowded skies will make many European holidaymakers' flights a misery this summer, despite plans to prevent a repeat of last year's record delays, aviation officials say.

"To say we're looking at this summer with mixed feelings is polite," says Karl-Heinz Neumeister, secretary-general of the 21-member Association of European Airlines (AEA).

"I think we will see chaos," he told Reuters in an interview. West European governments Tuesday formally launched a "traffic flow management" scheme, to combat delays caused by an unexpected explosion of air traffic since 1986.

The Brussels-based AEA says, however, this does not go far enough. It wants nothing short of a single computerised air traffic control system to replace 20-odd national centres which still liaise with each other by telephone.

Delays last summer were so acute that travellers often spent

hours at airports waiting for flights. With traffic rising by around seven per cent a year since 1986, airports have been stretched to bursting-point.

Neumeister says that 24 per cent of scheduled flights, which account for about half of all passenger traffic in Europe, are taking off more than 15 minutes late.

Under the flow management scheme, five national air traffic control centres covering 22 countries will hold daily conferences on easing congestion, drawing on a common flight database. By 1999, the system will be run from one centre in Brussels.

Erik Sermijn, chairman of the International Federation of Air Traffic Controllers' Associations, says the system — designed to make maximum use of limited capacity — is already yielding limited benefits.

The delays are still here but things are a bit more flexible and we can give passengers better advance notice of delays," said

Sermijn, a controller at Brussels airport.

He says an absence so far of strikes by controllers, which disrupted traffic last year, has also helped.

"On an average summer's day we have an average of 12,000 flights a day compared to 9,000 the rest of the year," says Francois Jadoul, an official at Euro-control, the Brussels-based body which will coordinate and eventually run the system.

This Saturday for example, Jadoul expects 269 flights from Britain to Greece travelling along two main routes. The new system, if confronted by a problem such as industrial action in France, would try to switch as many flights as possible to an alternative corridor avoiding France.

"If, unfortunately tomorrow, two aircraft meet in the air and we have an accident (because of congestion), I think things will happen overnight for a European solution," he said.

WEEKEND CROSSWORD

Edited by Herb Eitman

THE MIDAS TOUCH

By Dorothy B. Martin

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